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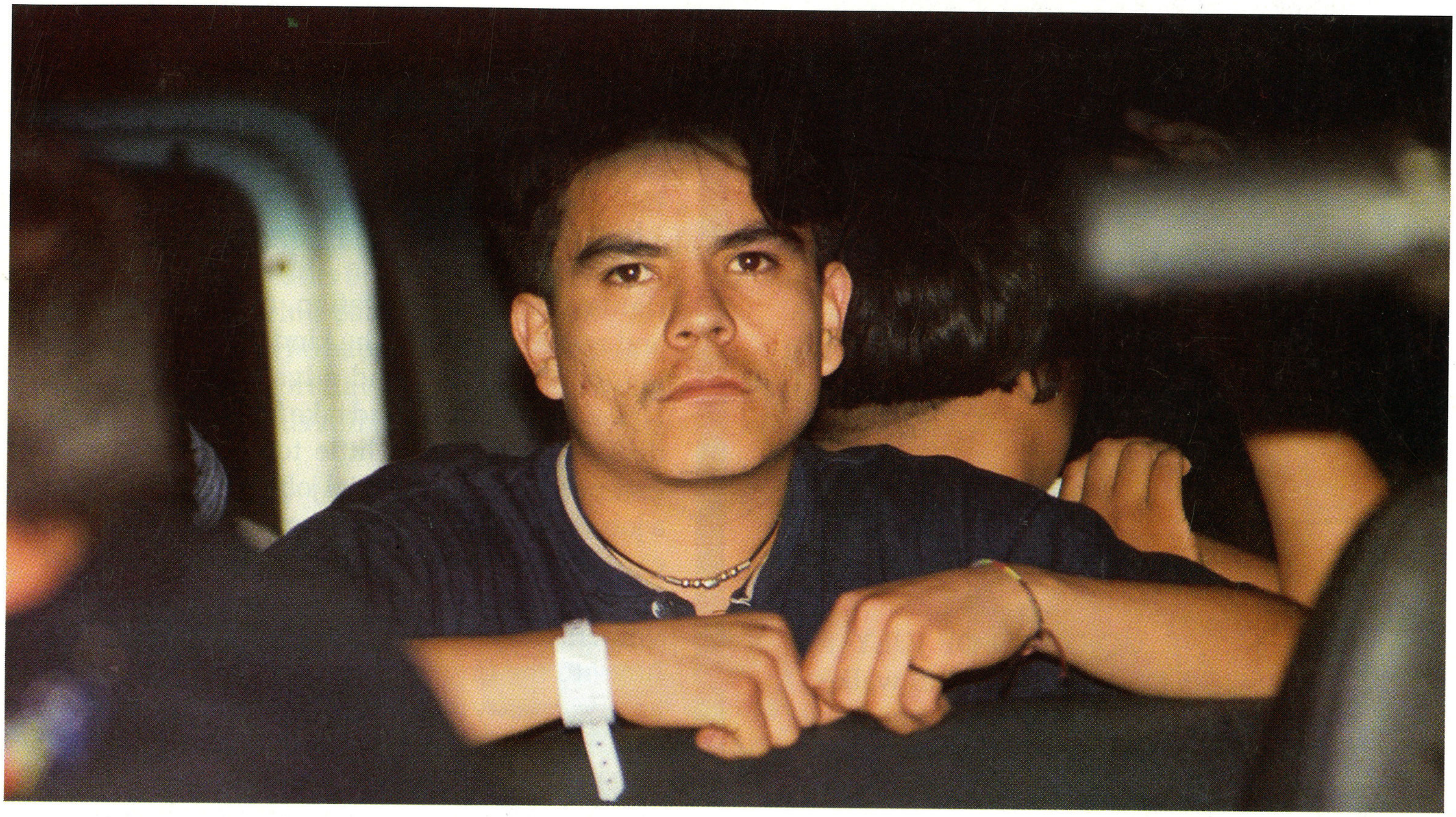
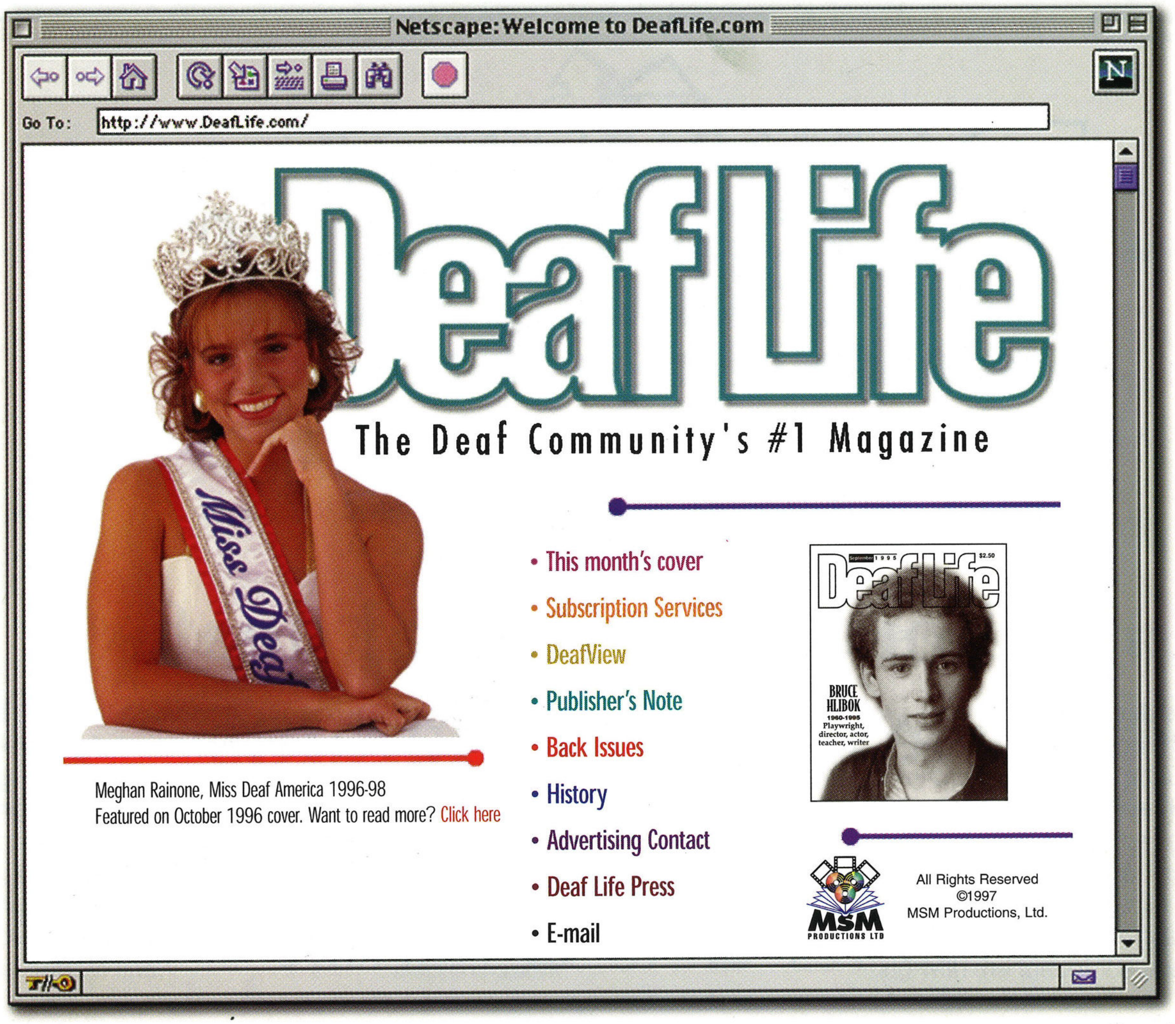


RESCUED!

The inside story of the Deaf Mexican immigrants and how they were freed from "virtual slavery" to face an uncertain future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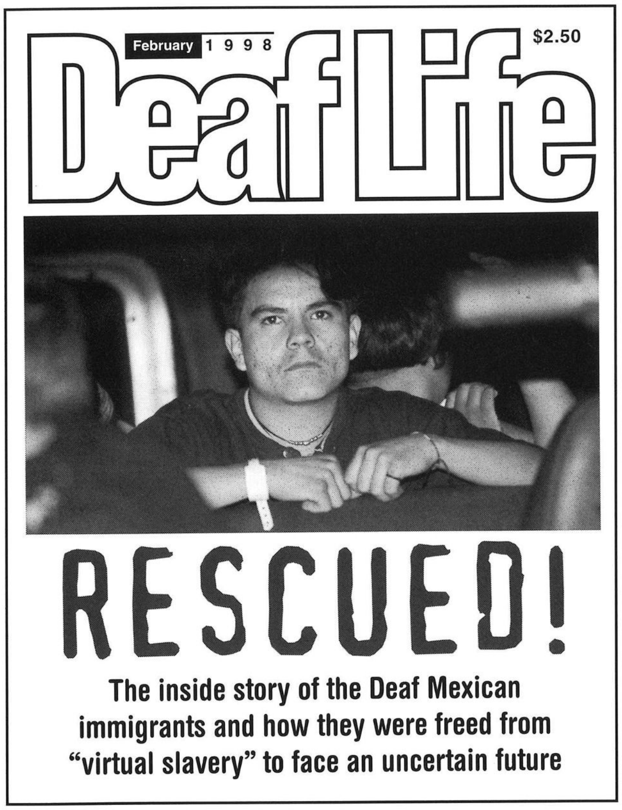

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Deaf Life

RESCUED!

The inside story of the Deaf Mexican immigrants and how they were freed from "virtual slavery" to face an uncertain future

COVER

DESIGN BY MATTHEW S. MOORE
PHOTO: DOUG KANTER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

ON THE MORNING OF JULY 19, FOUR DEAF MEXICANS walked into a police station in Queens, New York, and asked for help. They'd been enslaved by a Mexican family (the Paolettis) and their associates, most of whom were also deaf, and forced to peddle $1 keychains and other trinkets on the subways and streets all day and to turn over all their earnings to their "bosses" every night. They were treated with extreme cruelty, terrorized, and cut off from contact with their families. Some had been kidnapped. In this issue, we begin in-depth coverage of the story of *los muditos*—"the mute ones."

This photo shows one of the Mexicans in a police van, leaving the 115th Precinct after being rescued. He seems to be thinking, "What next?" 10

Publisher's Note

The news was shocking when it broke last July, and it's still difficult to believe . . . that dozens of young Deaf Mexicans could be deceived with false promises, or simply kidnapped, smuggled into the States, then treated with such brutality by other Deaf Mexicans.

Even more shocking, perhaps, is the revelation that deaf people in Mexico have no legal rights, no higher education, no opportunities, and no advantages—the kind of rights, schooling, opportunities, and advantages we in the U.S. enjoy every day and take for granted. Young deaf Mexicans have little to look forward to except underpaid, menial jobs—*if* they can find a job, that is. Many have taken to peddling ABC cards and trinkets or begging on the streets of Mexico City. It's not surprising that they were vulnerable to wholesale exploitation—easily lured to the Promised Land, offered good jobs and prosperity in the Paolettis' thriving keychain business. Who could resist an opportunity like that? What they got was a nightmare.

The plight of *los muditos* raises disturbing questions about how immigrants are treated and exploited as cheap labor in the big cities. Many of them struggle to earn a bare living, under constant fear of deportation—and many don't want to go back under any circumstances. Do *they* have a share in the "American Dream"?

The city and federal governments, and the Deaf and Hearing communities have responded compassionately. I hope that this multi-part article helps readers gain a better understanding of a very complicated, disturbing reality.

Matthew S. Moore

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Beyond the Envelope

THE PRINCESS, THE FIREMAN, & THE BOSS

■ In this installment, Michele Listisard recalls three persons who died in 1997: Princess Diana, a neighbor, and a former boss. She discusses their impact on her life, her feelings for them, and how their untimely deaths affect her. John the firefighter was killed in the line of duty, while battling a fire in Washington, D.C. in October. Sherryf Farmer, who had been Michele's boss at **Science** for 5 years, was felled one workday in November by a stroke. And Princess Diana . . . many of us still haven't gotten over the shock of her death. 27

DeafView

READERS' VIEWPOINT

RISKY BUSINESS?

■ We received mixed responses to our "DeafView" question about buying insurance from a deaf or hearing salesperson. Of our 732 respondents, 60% feel that it doesn't matter if a salesperson is deaf or hearing. Trust, competence, quality of service, clear communication, and good rates are the important issues here. 33% *would* buy insurance from a deaf salesperson. A 7% minority would *not*. Why? No trust, no confidentiality, gossip. As one reader explains, "I wouldn't trust Deaf people with my money or life. . . I will never do business with Deaf people, ever!" 30

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Deaf Life

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LETTERS

HH & Deaf: "many more similarities than differences"

I just recently read your October 1997 issue and would like to offer a much-belated round of applause for your sensitive coverage of the issue of hard-of-hearing people and their status within the Deaf community. You touched on some of the important points concerning this population, and well illustrated the conflicts in definitions, self-definitions, and perceptions of being hard-of-hearing (HH).

I am Deaf myself, but the focus of my doctoral dissertation was on the question of whether HH people can and should be included in planning ASL/English bilingual/bicultural educational programs for deaf (and HH) children. To this question, my answer is a strong YES.

First, your readers should know that there are many more similarities than differences between HH and deaf people. In the public schools, HH children do have the same kind of academic, communication, and social difficulties as deaf children do, although in many cases not to the same degree of severity. Also, HH children (and adults) often experience problems with their identity development, as they feel "lost" or not accepted completely within the Hearing world, but also experience rejection in the Deaf community.

In my dissertation study, I observed several HH students over the course of one year at a residential school for the deaf which uses an ASL/English Bilingual/Bicultural philosophy. What I found was that within this program, the students did not experience the type of rejection that has been seen in other places. They were able to learn through sign language (without voice), yet did not have any diminishing of their speech skills or desire to use their voices, which they did use among each other, but often not with deaf friends (this is a form of language "code-switching" that is commonly seen in bilinguals). Perhaps most importantly, they seemed to be developing a more balanced identity for themselves that recognized they have some "Hearing" characteristics and some "Deaf" characteristics. That is, while many HH people say they don't know what to call themselves or where they fit, these adolescents seemed to be developing a more secure sense of themselves in this environment.

While I'm not saying that Bilingual/Bicultural education is THE answer for everybody, I feel that in many cases, HH children would benefit more from education in a Bi/Bi school, rather than in a mainstreamed setting, where they will only be taught to identify with Hearing people, rather than to identify with and embrace both parts of themselves, the Hearing and the Deaf.

Of course, it must be said that the Deaf community needs to change. We need to recognize that to be Deaf does not mean being all 100% the same. Being Deaf can involve a range of possibilities. For example, there are Deaf people who are proud to be Deaf, sign ASL, perhaps were born to Deaf parents, yet enjoy listening to music. This does not make them any less of a Deaf person. There are Deaf people who can sign fluently, and love to read books written in English. This does not make them any less of a Deaf person, either.

We Deaf need to recognize that being Deaf lies on a continuum (range). There is a wide variety of ways that one can be Deaf. If we redefine being Deaf in a more inclusive way, this can only make the Deaf community stronger (socially and politically), instead of weaker, as the current divisions are doing to us now. I urge all Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people to think seriously on this issue and try to work together to recognize what we all share and need for our futures.

Donald A. Grushkin, Ph.D.
Fremont, California

Editors' note: *Dr. Grushkin's adventures with the American Red Cross were detailed in our August 1994 cover story on Deaf blood donors.*

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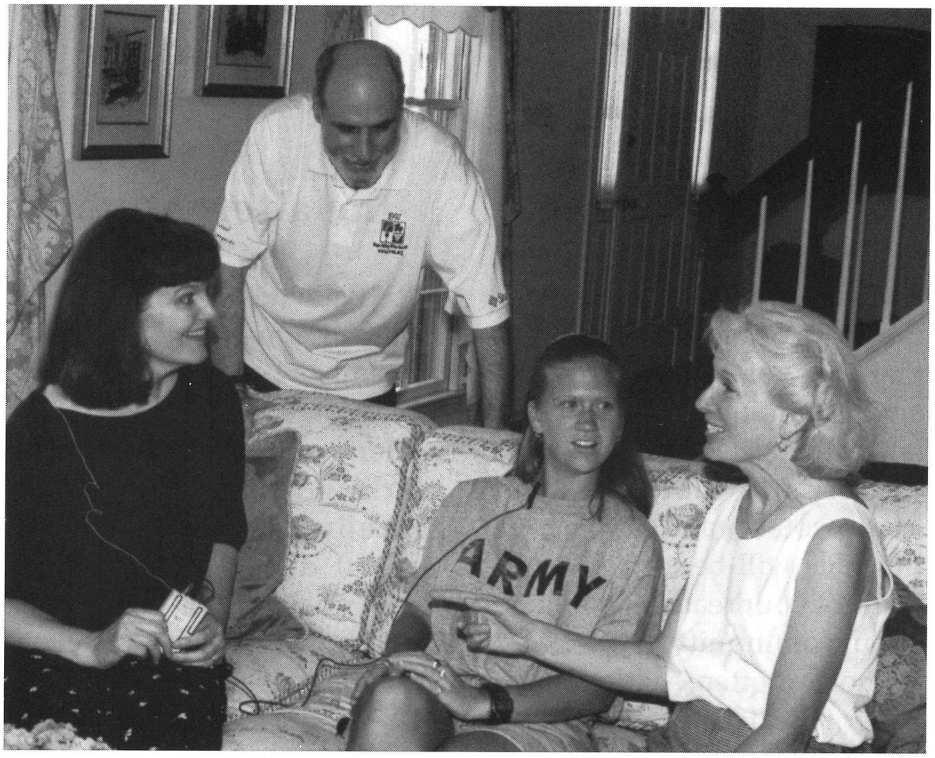

Matthew,

The reports coming in about the **Deaf Life** articles [November 1997 cover feature] have been quite good. Congratulations.

I wanted to send along the tidbits about the unidentified ladies in the November **Deaf Life** photo on page 29.

The lady on the far right is Marian Mankin. Her daughter (in the center) is Kelly Mankin, who describes herself as follows:

"I was Miss Deaf Virginia 1995. Graduated from Providence College 1996 in Edu/Special Ed, and now returning back to school to get my Master's in Audiology. (I never know exactly where to say I'm at school, but am enrolled at Gallaudet and in their Master's program... just taking prerequisite classes at the moment. A bit complicated, huh?!) Last year I was coaching Diving and Lacrosse for Langley High School (but unfortunately had to give it up due to school. I have definitely missed it a lot)."

We were talking about Kelly's friend, Kristin Buehl. Kristin is a junior at Princeton majoring in history. Kristin had a cochlear implant in New York City several months after our conversation in this photo. Last we heard, she's doing well with it.

It would be great if you have space to add this to your next issue.

Happy '98. Can't believe the 2000 is just around the corner!

Sigrid Cerf
Annandale, Virginia

The Editors reply: *Thanks for the news and clarification!*

Carrying on what MP began

Thank you so much for the complimentary copy of the December 1997 issue in memory of my sister, Marie. I cried when I saw the cover and it really moved me when I read my daughter Jessica's article. She did not show the article to me because she wrote and sent it to

LETTERS

you from her school. I also appreciated the touching sentiments and stories that so many individuals contributed.

We thank you and your staff for this cover feature tribute to Marie; it is a tremendous honor, it warms our hearts. We want the Deaf Community to know that the work she began must always continue. As her work is not done, it is our responsibility to carry on, which we know Marie would want. It is our hope that this will be carried on by some of your readers, members of our community. If her efforts are not forgotten, her dream will never fade. Her death is a huge shock to the family and to the Deaf Community.

The feature will also help my Deaf children, Jessica, age 13, and Jonah, age 11, whom she loved so dearly. Because of your work, they can read about Marie as a valued person, not just "their aunt." I know they will see how important her contributions are to the American and International Deaf Community.

Marie is in our thoughts everyday and we miss her dearly.

Again, many thanks to the staff at **Deaf Life** for an excellent tribute to my sister.

Joan Philip Meehan
Center for Living &
Working, Inc.
Worcester, Massachusetts

"Certification isn't perfect—but it sure beats the alternative"

Re: Paulette R. Caswell's "Certified or Qualified?", Letters, December 1997

Many of Ms. Caswell's remarks were right on target, specifically, certified (unfortunately) does not necessarily mean qualified for every situation. Few people are. And every deaf person is unique (as is every human being). However, where we part company is her assertion that "being easily understood" means an interpreter is qualified.

Here's my concern: The deaf person may understand the interpreter's signs just fine, but the interpreter's signs may not accurately reflect what is being said, and rarely is the deaf person in a position to know if what is being signed is what is being said. At least in the instance of a certified interpreter, some body has determined that the interpreter is capable of not only clear communication, but *accurate* interpretation.

Imperfect as certification is at predicting an interpreter's likelihood of successful completion of her task, it does offer several benefits. Certified interpreters are bound by the code of ethics and accountable to a grievance procedure should any consumer (or other interpreter, for that matter) wish to pursue that avenue. Membership in a professional organization can serve as a means of staying abreast of developments in the field; in the case of RID, certification is a hard-won reward for recognized skills AND a symbol of the recipient's commitment to continued professional development. The Certificate Maintenance Program *requires* the interpreter to regularly participate in professional development events or risk losing her certification.

Yes, certification is no guarantee, but it sure beats the alternative. I personally wish we were all more qualified and I continue to believe that certification offers the best hope for achieving that goal.

Sandy MacEachern
Cloverdale, California

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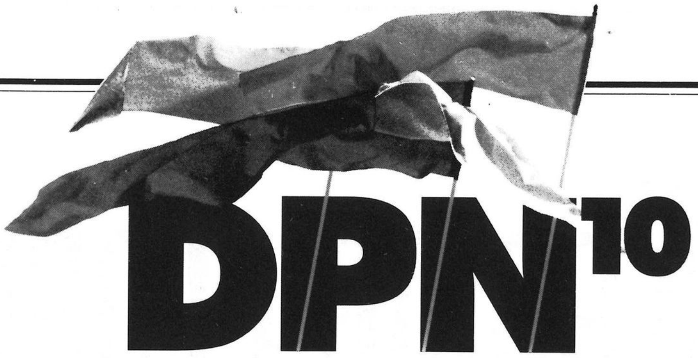

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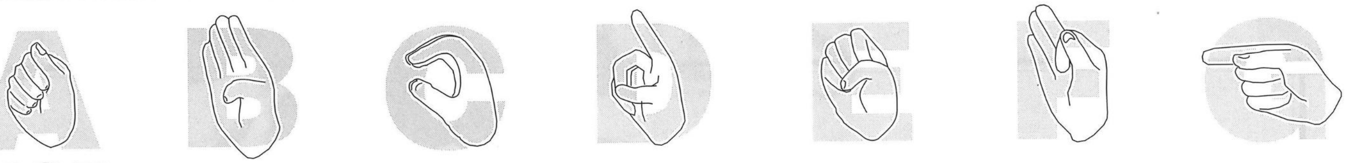

FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY™

When I have a someone coming in to repair office equipment, my Deaf employee always stands nearby and watches. If I ask him to move off, he gives me a dirty look. Why?

What do hearing people do to enliven the duller stretches of their workday? They tune into a favorite radio program. Call a friend, or even a client. Or strike up a leisurely chat by the water cooler about the weather, sports, vacation plans, travel, families, pets, cars, hobbies, current sales, international news, finance, new faces at work, and so forth. The possibilities are endless. If you're a Deaf person in an otherwise all-hearing environment, you are pretty much excluded from this. So what do you do to kill time? You observe. You watch people doing things. Especially repair technicians coming in and working on a disabled photocopier, printer, computer, or similar "complex" equipment. Or even a glazier replacing a broken window or glass door. Deaf people aren't necessarily being nosy or meddlesome; they just like to see what's going on.

Many Deaf people who come from residential-school backgrounds feel that they grew up in a zoo (or the proverbial goldfish bowl), in the sense of being frequently under observation. From the time they start school, they're watched by hearing visitors—legislators, parents, researchers, educational administrators, etcetera. These observers are perpetually coming into the classrooms to see how they learn, how they sign (or thrive with their speech training). They grow up with someone, usually a hearing someone, stationed behind them and looking over their shoulder. So they feel that it's okay for them to turn the tables and do a little observing themselves.

This attitude is not to be confused with snooping or a desire to get in the way. It's a normal reaction . . . even a positive one.

It can, however, cause a bit of trouble on occasion. A real-life example: "Steve," a much-put-upon Deaf man working in a small firm where everybody else is hearing, is cut off from virtually all of the everyday interchange that his co-workers have full access to—conversations, radio, overheard telephone talk. He naturally resents this situation, although he's resigned to

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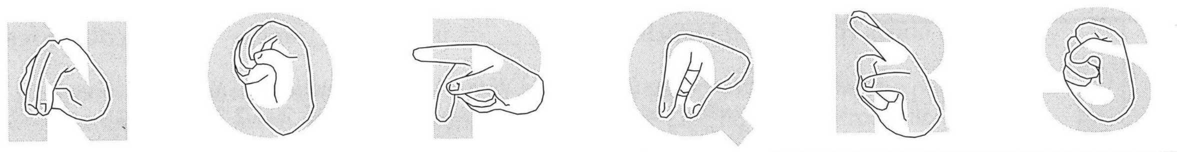

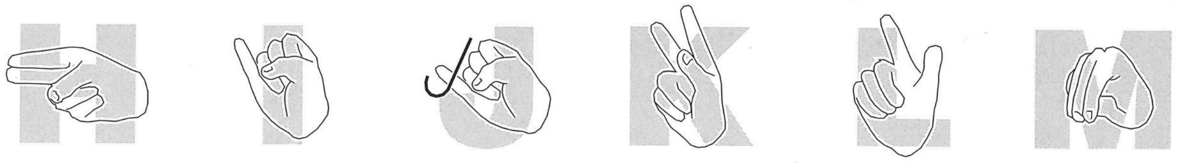

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it. It so happened that one day, around noon, a deliveryman arrived to install a new piece of equipment. It was a new kind of setup; Steve had never seen anything of the sort before. Steve had, at that moment, nothing in particular to do. He was intrigued. So he stood by, watching the deliveryman installing and setting up the equipment. Along came "Fred," the boss, told Steve curtly, "Move away!" Steve replied, "It's lunch break; I'm leaving." His unexpressed thought was: *Screw you. I want to watch!* But he left.

Is it okay for us to watch? Usually—if we're not deserting our posts or neglecting a responsibility. If it's our workspace or house, of course, we have more independence. If it's an electrician upgrading the fusebox or a worker doing repairs, installation, decoration, etcetera, and no huffy boss is around to bother the Deaf observer, the worker most likely won't mind being watched. That way, if we have a question, we can ask right then and there. But if a boss is around, s/he may order the Deaf person away. Not that there's a written rule against it; hearing folks generally don't do that kind of thing.

What's the boss's rationale for ordering the "intrusive" Deaf worker away from the repair technician? "I don't want Steve hovering around the technician because he'll make the technician nervous." Steve's rationale for staying and watching is: "All my life I've had hearing people hovering around me, peering over my shoulder. Nobody ever asked if it made *me* nervous. So why shouldn't I give hearing people a taste of what they've given me all my life? If my presence is making the technician uncomfortable, I prefer 'hearing it straight from the horse's mouth.' The technician hasn't complained. Anyway, how else am I going to learn?" They're not inclined to comply. They'd much rather stay and watch.

Since Deaf people are largely cut off from aural sources of information, they lag behind hearing people in terms of immediate access to information (and the benefits of knowing it), if that situation is communicated only aurally. Case in point: a malfunctioning photocopy machine. A hearing worker can call to the repair technician from across the room: "What's wrong?" The technician replies: "Oh, a paperclip got into the drum unit." S/he will get an informative, useful answer. If the Deaf worker asks the hearing worker: "What did he say?" s/he's likely to get a brush-off-type response: "Oh, something needed replacement." Or: "Oh, nothing important." Or: "Nothing you need to know." Or: "He fixed the problem." Or: "I'll tell you later." None of these are proper responses.

A Deaf worker who asks the same questions as a hearing co-worker has an equal right to know the answers, just as much right as the hearing worker does. And s/he may want to know so that s/he'll be able to troubleshoot the same problem should it pop up again! Many Deaf people tend to remember these details better than their hearing peers, and do a good job of troubleshooting similar problems, say, at home. That's essentially why they don't like to be shooed away. They want to see, to learn, to remember.

Deaf people tend to be respectful of authority, however. If a police officer or firefighter tells a Deaf bystander to leave the area, s/he will comply. Promptly.

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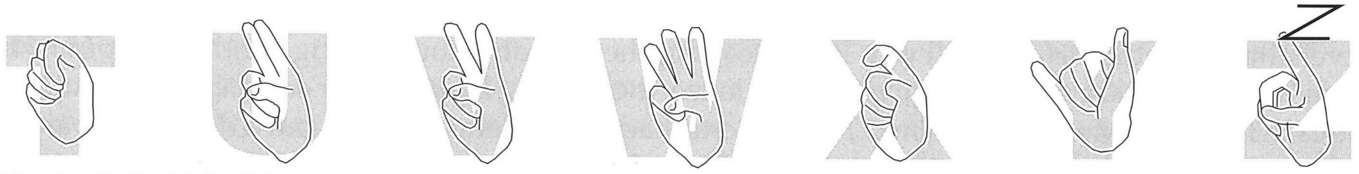
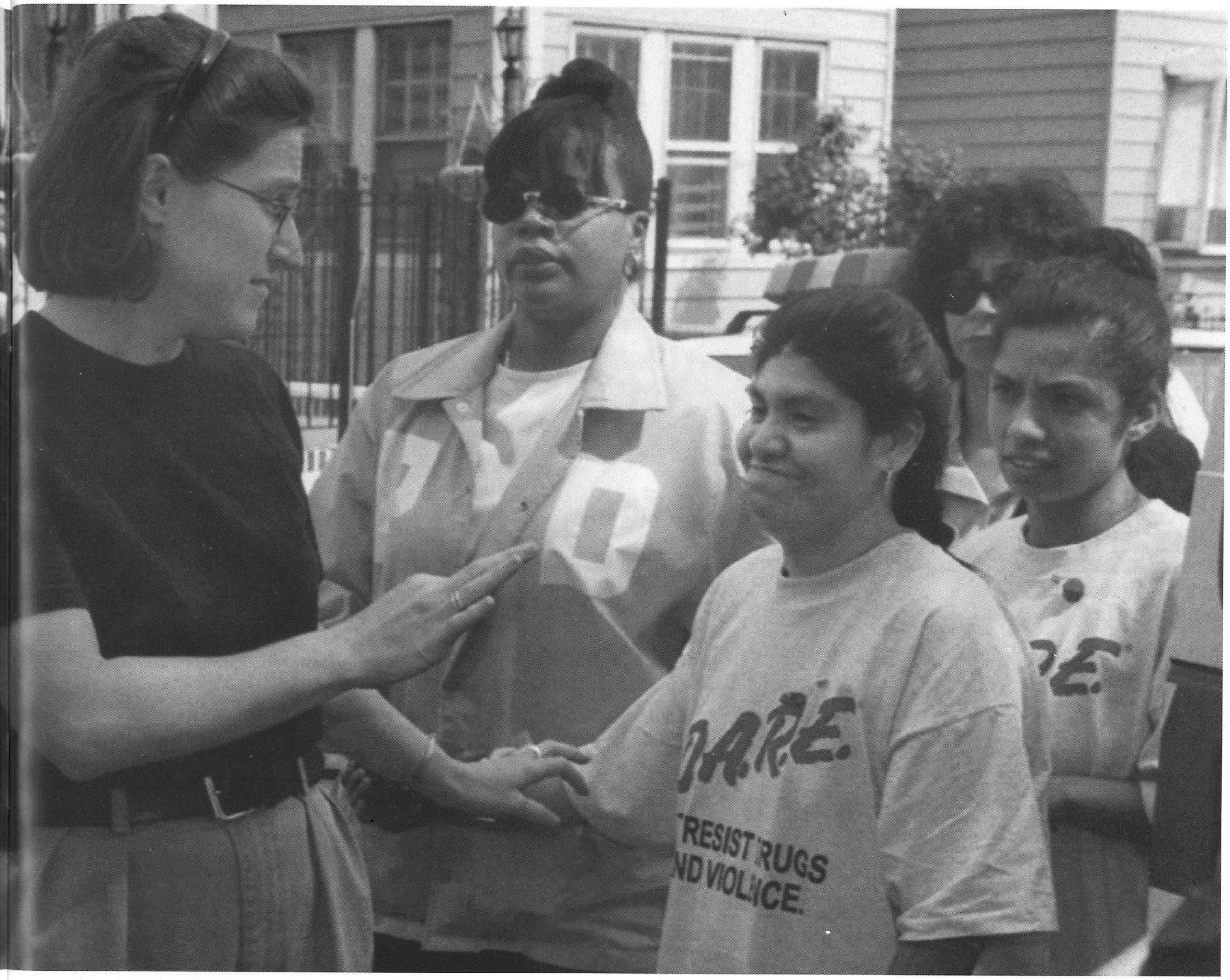


Prisoners of fear, victims of hope: the ordeal of *los muditos*
Part I

The story broke on Saturday, July 19, and quickly became international news. Four Deaf Mexicans walked into a police station at midnight, and, a few hours later, gave the police a letter that detailed their plight. Within hours, a group of 57 deaf Mexican immigrants was rescued from two crammed apartments in Queens, New York. Day after day, the revelations astounded even hard-boiled New Yorkers: how the members of one Mexican family, many of them deaf, ran an efficient "bondage-ring" operation, recruiting and smuggling deaf Mexicans into the States and then forcing them to peddle keychains and other trinkets all day long, keeping them in atrocious° living conditions, punishing them when they didn't sell enough or tried to leave, then taking most of their earnings and smuggling the cash into their Mexico City bank. The Paolettis had been operating for about a decade, expanding their "empire," and earning a million dollars a year from their "workers." Only when some of them


D.A.R.E.
RESIST RUGS
ND VIOL NCE.

A last visit to the house of bondage: Police escort Deaf Mexicans (wearing new T-shirts) from a police van back to the 93rd Street house on July 22 so they can collect the personal belongings they left behind when they were rescued. The woman in the dark T-shirt and headband is a sign-language interpreter. (Photo: Carlos Villalon/AP)

decided they could take no more did they go to police.

Day by day, the horrifying details multiplied—and then came news of the breaking-up of similar "bondage rings" in Chicago, North Carolina, and Los Angeles.

The New York Times gave the case the most extensive and detailed coverage. The **Daily News** also devoted front-page coverage to the case, as did other newspapers. Television news publicized it on primetime. And it was the hottest news in the Mexican press.

The details outraged even hard-boiled New Yorkers. Ironically, the news came at a time of public antipathy° to illegal immigrants, especially Mexicans. There is widespread resentment, even hatred, of "illegals" who compete for jobs and benefits with "real" citizens. There is also widespread dislike of panhandlers and peddlers.

As the newest arrivals to New York City's multi-ethnic, multi-cultural crowd, Mexicans have found themselves on the bottom of the socio-economic heap. They are hard workers, willing to accept near-starvation wages. They have been stuck in low-paying jobs—busing in restaurants, deli delivery, cleaning, vending flowers from pushcarts near subway entrances. Since a number of them are illegal aliens, they have been reluctant to take advantage of the city's social services. Unlike other ethnic-cultural or Hispanic groups, they

"It's a situation that's totally mind-boggling," After the news broke on July 19, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani held a press conference in front of the 115th Precinct, where the Mexicans were being questioned. (Photo: Mark Bonifacio)

haven't banded together much to form organizations. They are still struggling to find a place—*some* place.

There are many questions raised by the publicizing of the plight of *los muditos*. How could it happen? How uncommon was their situation? If they're ultimately deported, as seems likely for some of them, what kind of a life will they return to? For those allowed to stay, what kind of a future will they have here? What about the other deaf immigrants rescued in other cities? What can be done to improve the quality of life for deaf people in Mexico?

Is it our concern? We believe it is.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

In the neighborhood they were known as *los muditos*, the mute ones, industrious young people who left the house at dawn and did not return until after midnight.
—Mirta Ojito, "Neighbors Heard Pain of 'Mute Ones,'" **New York Times**, July 20, 1997

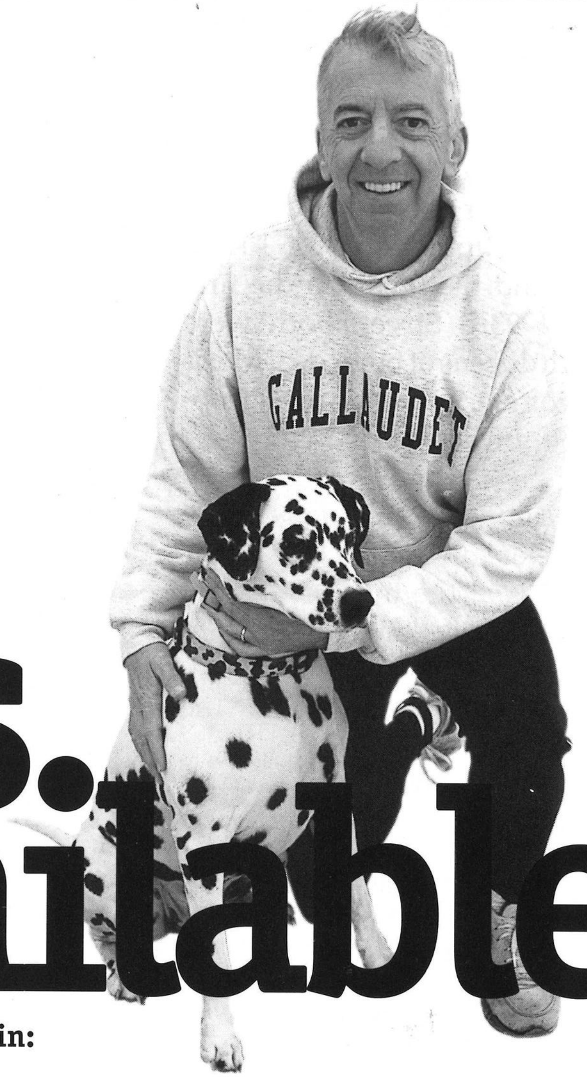
Early in the morning of Saturday, July 19, the astounding story began to unfold. Four deaf Mexicans—three men and a woman—walked into the 115th Precinct police station in Jackson Heights, Queens, at midnight, carrying a 3-page letter written in Spanish by the woman, only to leave without turning it over to police. They came back and left several times, and finally, at 4 a.m., gave the letter to police. "I am a woman who works at Newark Airport," it began. "I hope you have time to read this." They did.

Using written notes and sign language, the Mexicans managed to communicate that they were being held in slavery—forced to put in 12-to-18-hour days, seven days a week, peddling trinkets° (keychains with miniature bats, baseballs, and gloves, screwdrivers, or tiny currency bills, pens, and U.S. flag pins on yellow ribbons) on the streets and subways for $1 apiece, then forced to turn over all their earnings to their "boss." And if they didn't bring back enough money each night, they were beaten. They were never given enough to eat, and were always hungry. Several of the women were sexually abused. If anyone tried to leave, they were tracked down and brought back.

Their going to the police was an act of courage, since they risked deportation by the immigration authorities . . . and they had already been threatened with death by their captors if they told.

They said they had been recruited from schools for the deaf in Mexico in Mexico City in the states of Oaxaca, Puebla, and Guerrera, and brought to New York from Mexico by the boss, who had lured them by promising he'd help them find

★ **Gallaudet University president I. King Jordan** is an accomplished ultramarathon runner. His daily runs on campus with Sophie, the family dalmatian, are part of his regular training regimen. Dr. Jordan became deaf at age 21 and learned sign language at Gallaudet, where he earned a B.A. in psychology in 1970. He went on to earn an M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Jordan was a professor of psychology and held several administrative positions, including dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, before becoming Gallaudet's first deaf president. His Gallaudet experience provided the foundation for his successful career. ★



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good jobs, and that he had taken their identity documents away from them.

They led police to two small, squalid° apartments located in duplex buildings 10 blocks apart in the Jackson Heights neighborhood, near the #7 subway line. One was on the upper floor of 104-15 34th Avenue and the other on the first floor of 37-54 93rd Street. Both were crammed with dozens of other deaf Mexicans: men, women, and children, sleeping side-by-side on bunkbeds, mattresses, and sleeping bags. There was virtually no other furniture. Two one-family apartments, each designed to comfortably house 7 persons at the most, had been chopped into cubicles and turned into jam-packed, messy barracks. Photographs and descriptions appeared in the New York papers:

> The front bedroom at 93rd Street held two sets of bunkbeds, with five sleeping bags on the floor. Rumpled clothing, stuffed bears, and rubber balls were strewn about the carpeted floor beneath a crucifix, the only wall adornment. In back of the apartment, investigators said, there were 30 to 50 mattresses.
> —Deborah Sontag, "Deaf Mexicans Are Found Held In Forced Labor," **New York Times**, July 20, 1997

In all, they found 52 more adults and 12 children, including four infants, living in the two apartments—40 of them in the apartment at 93rd Street, 18 in the one on 34th Avenue. (Different reports gave different numbers.) Four of the women were pregnant. Several women told police that they'd been physically or sexually abused. The full details of the regular beatings and torture some of them had endured would not be made public for another month.

As Deborah Sontag noted in her **New York Times** front-page story: "At 6 a.m., police took the sleepy immigrants by bus to the 115th Precinct for questioning, which proceeded slowly as officials scrambled to find interpreters of both Spanish and sign language." She also noted that "the investigation was hampered from the start by communication problems," and that "several of the immigrants had tried unsuccessfully to ask for help in previous visits to the station house."

Police estimated that the Paolettis had been earning a million dollars a year for the past 5 years from their peddling-ring operation.

Several persons suspected of being "enforcers" were picked up for questioning, although no immediate arrests were made. These included Alfredo Rustrián Paoletti, originally identified as the "boss," but who was not the ringleader.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown told the **New York Times**, "They appear to have arrived here owing money to smugglers, who put them up in safe houses and forced them to work long hours for low wages with the threat of deportation° hanging over their heads. It's a form of involuntary servitude." In other words, slavery.

New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani took an immediate interest in the plight of the immigrants and their welfare. He visited them at the 115th Precinct on Saturday night and said in an interview, "It appears that at least one man and possibly more were holding a number of people in bondage, in virtual slavery, bringing them over from Mexico and then requiring them to work and taking their wages from them. The people are brought in by Alfredo. He gets documents for them. He has a connection for them at the airport in Mexico City and he brings them in through Newark. That is the best information that we have."

He also said, "They were taken from Mexico, some under circumstances that could be considered kidnapping. It's a situation that's totally mind-boggling, that people would take other people into bondage in this day and age."

Particularly Deaf abusing Deaf.

A spokesman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service said that they had begun investigating when and how the

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Mexicans had come to Queens.

The adults spent the night at the 115th Precinct, while the 12 children were turned over to the city's child-welfare agency.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

After they were questioned by police, Federal INS officials were ready to bus the Mexicans to a detention center for illegal aliens in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, but Mayor Giuliani refused to release them from city custody, insisting that they stay in New York as "crime victims and witnesses." Of his negotiations with the INS, he told reporters, "I stopped them. I just said we're not turning them over. They're in the jurisdiction of the City of New York right now." He said he wanted the Mexicans to remain in New York until their immigrant status had been determined. Several of the children may be U.S. citizens, he said. (At least 7 of the 12 children were born in the U.S. and are therefore citizens.) INS agreed to cooperate with the City and NYPD.

Instead of jail, they were taken to the Westway Motel in East Elmhurst, Queens, near La Guardia Airport. (Originally built to accommodate tourists to the 1964-65 World's Fair, it had since served several non-tourist purposes, including temporary housing for homeless people and illegal immigrants.) After they arrived, they had a breakfast of waffles and were put up in 41 rooms, all three floors of a modern wing and two basement rooms of an older wing. The motel was described as "dingy," but their new quarters were, at least, comfortable and clean. They were being cared for by the American Red Cross. Clothing, underwear, diapers, and other supplies were collected by the American Red Cross and Lexington School for the Deaf. Authorities installed flashing-light door signals for them. And they slept on king-sized beds.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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HE DESERVED A BREAK . . . AND HE GOT IT!

Gally student awarded 1.5K in McDonald's lawsuit

On December 19, **Michael Bunjer**, 32, a student at Gallaudet University, was awarded $1,500 in a lawsuit contending that a McDonald's near the campus was unwilling to serve him at its drive-through window. The McDonald's in question was also ordered to train employees to accommodate deaf customers.

According to court documents, Bunjer drove to the McDonald's at 75 New York Avenue Northeast on May 21, 1995, and tried to order a Big Mac, fries, and large Sprite at the drive-through window by writing his order down on paper. Drive-through entrances have posted menus and intercom microphones for placing orders that are picked up at the window.

According to a finding by Judge **Stanley Sporkin**, Bunjer's order was refused, and he was told to park and go inside. Bunjer insisted on being served at the window, and because the line had gotten backed up, he was served. But he testified that he received the wrong change and warm water instead of cold Sprite.

He went inside to complain, but he refused to accept a refund and remained angry. He was ordered to leave, and when he did not, an off-duty D.C. police officer working as a part-time security guard arrested him for causing a disturbance.

Bunjer's attorney, **John E. Carpenter**, said his client testified that because of this unjust treatment, "he wished he had never been born." The jury's award came on Bunjer's claim that the incident had inflicted emotional distress. As part of a December 23 ruling on additional issues, Sporkin wrote that McDonald's drive-through facility "discriminates against the deaf and those with hearing impairments," who "have no way" to use it. He said that McDonald's needs a sign at the drive-up entrance instructing deaf people to go *directly* to the window to get orders filled, and also needs to train employees to accommodate all deaf customers.

Gary Mims, an attorney for McDonald's, said that its policy is to treat deaf and hard-of-hearing customers "exactly the same" as anyone else. He estimated that 25 deaf customers had been served there *daily* at that franchise since the current owners began operating there in 1992, and he said Bunjer's complaint was the first of its kind. Any customers whose orders will be delayed are asked to park and wait until the orders are brought to them, to avoid backing up the line. He admitted that he didn't know what happened on the night Bunjer was refused service, but said that he "should have been served."

McDonald's has made the staff aware of its policy on serving deaf and hard-of-hearing people, Mims noted, and is willing to put the policy in writing. Except for posting the sign, he said, Judge Sporkin's order is "basically telling us to do what we believe we already do."

✏ In a similar complaint, actress **Terrylene Sacchetti** filed a Federal lawsuit against the Burger King Corporation in

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December 1993 for discrimination after one of its franchises in West Los Angeles refused to accommodate her in the drive-through line in much the same way that McDonald's refused to accommodate Michael Bunjer. After writing out her order on a piece of paper, she bypassed the drive-through microphone she couldn't use and proceeded directly to the pick-up window. She was refused service there and told that she would have to come inside if she wanted to order. She came inside to tell the staff how angry she was at being discriminated against as a deaf person. After Burger King threatened to have her arrested, she left, but was still angry enough to sue. Her suit was ultimately settled out of court. Ironically, she had appeared in a Burger King commercial before the incident. (See "Deaf folks can't 'have it their way' at Burger King, January 1994 **DEAF LIFE Plus**).

✏ Adapted from **Martin Weil's** report, "Gallaudet Student Awarded $1,500 in McDonald's Case/Bias Against Deaf Found in Drive-In Service," **Washington Post**, Wednesday, December 31, 1997. Thanks to **Raymond Luczak** for notifying us. The report, as published in the **Post**, used the term "hearing-impaired" three times when quoting Gary Mims.

DISNEY: LET'S MAKE A DEAL

an update on the Walt Disney World ADA lawsuits

Last year, Walt Disney World was slapped with several lawsuits charging violations of the ADA (refusal to provide sign-language interpreters and to make its attractions fully accessible to deaf visitors). A settlement has been reached between WDW and the Department of Justice regarding WDW's noncompliance with ADA. Here's the full text. Terminology has not been altered. The terms used here are the ones actually used in the agreement.

Agreement between the United States of America
and
Walt Disney World Co.
under the Americans with Disabilities Act
Concerning the Use of Auxiliary Aids
at Walt Disney World
Settlement

This Agreement between Walt Disney World Co. (WDW) and the United States Department of Justice (Department) is the culmination of an on-going and mutually beneficial process to make WDW more accessible to persons with hearing impairments.

The background and procedure that has led to this agreement is both illuminating and instructive in terms of the benefits to be derived from collaborative efforts between private industry and the government. Prior to the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its effective date in 1992, WDW was committed to meeting the needs of its guests with disabilities, and had been recognized as an innovator in that regard. With respect to hearing-related disabilities, WDW has offered to guests who are deaf or hard-of-hearing a variety of auxiliary aids, including assistive listening systems, TDDs, captioning on television, and written aids to communication at many of its shows and attractions.

Following enactment of the ADA, the Department advised WDW that some guests with hearing disabilities claimed that they were denied effective communication as required by the ADA. As a result of the concerns addressed by the Department which have since been resolved separately, the Department proceeded to investigate and began an ongoing discussion with WDW. Together, with the Department's assistance, WDW has undertaken a variety of innovative steps to better address the needs of persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

While WDW is committed to continuing its exploration of new and improved methods and services, the following represents an agreement between WDW and the Department as to effective communication at this time:

1. WDW agrees to continue to provide those auxiliary aids and services necessary for deaf and hearing-impaired individuals to enjoy the programs and services at the Walt Disney World Resort, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 12182(b)(2)(A)(iii). While methods of complying with the ADA will differ depending upon the particular attraction, such methods include, but are not limited to: captioning; sign-language interpreters; assistive listening systems (ALSs); and written aids. This Agreement provides for specific auxiliary aids for each attraction at Walt Disney World as identified in Attachment A, which is incorporated in this Agreement by reference. WDW's efforts to develop other effective auxiliary aids will continue to evolve.

2. a. WDW shall make interpreting services available at the Magic Kingdom, Epcot, and Disney-MGM Studios on a rotating scheduled basis so that guests will know precisely when those services are available at the specific park. WDW's interpreters will be qualified sign-language interpreters capable of oral or ASL interpretations. The schedule will alternate at each of the three parks in rotation so that one performance of each identified show will be interpreted on the day scheduled for interpreting, timed to permit guests to attend all the interpreted shows at that park on that day. Guests with hearing disabilities who wish to see those interpreted performances must notify WDW Guest Services at least fourteen (14) days prior to the day and date upon which services are to be scheduled. In special circumstances, such as a visit of three days or less when interpreting is not available at the guest's park of choice, WDW shall also make an effort to provide interpreter services on a day on which they are not regularly scheduled. It is the parties' hope and expectation that the two-week notice requirement will be reduced to one week, or less, no later than December 31, 1998, unless WDW

informs the Department on or before November 1, 1998, that there is good cause for not being able to shorten the two-week notice provision.

b. Guests who wish to request interpreted performances of: (i) Epcot World Showcase street-type entertainers; (ii) American Gardens performances; or (iii) House of Invention, none of which will appear on the interpreter schedule, must request the interpreter services at least 14 days prior to the date on which they would like the services. Among these events, which may change from time to time, are currently included: Voices of Liberty; Le Clown Gordoon; Jon Armstrong Magic Show; Pam Brody; World Showcase Players; Canadian Comedy Corps.

c. Guests requiring interpreter services shall identify themselves to personnel at the attraction scheduled for interpreting and the guest and one companion shall be provided seating that will permit them to see the interpreter without obstacles or interference during the attraction or event.

d. WDW will of course impose no surcharge on persons with disabilities to cover the cost of providing any auxiliary aids, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 12182(b)(2)(A)(i).

e. Printed interpreter schedules will be available at all Guest Services locations. Interpreter information is also available from Guest Services by telephone and on the WDW site on the Internet.

3. WDW has been working on developing discrete° captioning for attractions at Walt Disney World for a number of years. As a result of those efforts and the Department's assistance, WDW can and will provide captioning services at various attractions as set forth on Attachment A. These services shall be available regardless of date or time and without advance-notice requirements. Any guest may obtain information regarding captioning services and any auxiliary aids or devices at Guest Services locations.

4. For those attractions at which interpreters or captioning are not currently provided under this Agreement, WDW will continue to evaluate and develop technologies or other methods of providing more effective communication for hard of hearing or deaf guests. In the interim, where written aids are the only auxiliary aid presently available, hard-of-hearing or deaf guests and a companion shall be allowed to experience the ride or attraction a second time promptly, being seated by WDW personnel at the next available performance or rotation of the attraction, if they identify themselves as a person with a hearing disability at the entrance to the ride or attraction.

5. WDW shall promote the availability of its services for persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing in print and other marketing media. The parties recognize that publication of the availability of the services for its deaf and hard-of-hearing guests, as well as the interpreter schedules, is essential to this Agreement. WDW agrees to make one distribution of information about the availability of its services for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons to major organizations for the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities, identified by the Department, within a reasonable time following the date of this Agreement.

6. As the parties have discussed, as part of WDW's ongoing efforts, WDW shall continue to evaluate the effectiveness of auxiliary aids and explore methods and technologies in a wide variety of areas including those where WDW is, or will be, providing interpreters or captions. In that regard, WDW shall notify the Department every six months as to any changes and developments in the types of auxiliary aids provided until December 1, 2000, and the parties will cooperate towards determining whether captioning or interpreters are feasible and acceptable for any WDW attraction where they are not already provided on that date.

7. WDW is expanding the scope and depth of employee training in disability awareness, etiquette, and services available, consistent with the employee's responsibilities. Such training includes, as applicable, treatment of guests with disabilities, the availability of services and auxiliary aids, and procedures and policies regarding guests with disabilities. WDW will continue to improve upon the training and training techniques and consider new and better ways of informing its' cast members in this area whenever possible. WDW shall provide training materials to the Department for periodic review, upon request from the Department.

8. WDW will continue to provide a complaint procedure for guests including complaints regarding treatment of guests with hearing disabilities and availability of auxiliary aids. All WDW Guest Services employees located at any Guest Services location shall be trained to respond to questions or complaints about: current policies for addressing the needs of guests with disabilities, information about available transcripts, paper and pencil, and emergency procedures for persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

9. WDW will confirm the aids and services at the Disneyland attractions comparable to those at Walt Disney World identified on Attachment A.

10. The parties understand that nothing contained in this Agreement limits in any way the Department's ability to enforce the ADA against WDW in the future should it not be in compliance with the ADA. Nor does it limit, in any way, WDW's ability to assert any legal defenses available to such claims. Also, by not seeking enforcement of any specific term of this Agreement, neither the Department nor WDW shall have waived its rights, to enforce any other portion of this Agreement. This Agreement does not compromise WDW's continuing obligation to comply with all aspects of the ADA.

11. This Agreement is a public document. Copies of this document, attachments, exhibits, and any information contained in them may be made available to any person at any time. The Department shall provide copies of these documents to any person upon request.

12. This Agreement fully and accurately reflects the agreement of the signers and no other statement, promise, or agreement, either written or oral, made by either party that is not contained in this written agreement, shall be enforceable.

13. This Agreement shall be effective as of the date set forth below, and it shall be binding on WDW and its succes-

sors in interest. WDW will notify any such successors in interest.

Walt Disney World Co.
by: Corporate Officer

DATE:

Deval L. Patrick
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
United States Department of Justice

discrete: single; particular. This may be a typographical error for *discreet*, which means "carefully designed to be unobtrusive" (i.e., to hearing audiences).

STAR-SPANGLED SIGNS

On January 13, the National Football League announced that **Phyllis Frelich** would sign the National Anthem at ***Super Bowl XXXII*** (January 25, San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium). **Jewel**, who records for Atlantic, sang the Anthem.

Said Frelich, "Everything about this is exciting—the event itself, the honor of being asked to appear, and the privilege of representing my language and culture in these circumstances. I'm really thrilled!" NBC televised ***Super Bowl XXXII*** live, including the National Anthem, on January 25. Game time was 3 p.m. PT.

Frelich has had a celebrated career in film, Broadway, and television, and is still active. One of the founding members of the National Theatre of the Deaf, she won a Tony Award in 1980 for her portrayal of Sarah Norman in **Mark Medoff's** ***Children of a Lesser God*** (a role he wrote for her), and received an Emmy nomination for her stunning portrayal of Janice Ryder in the 1985 TV-movie ***Love Is Never Silent***.

Other credits (a tiny sampling) include her role as Frances in Beth Henley's ***The Debutante Ball***; her one-character play, ***Lolly Foster's Daredevil Airshow***, which premiered at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1993; her portrayal of Dr. Joyce Ginsberg in **Andrew Shea's** film ***Santa Fe***, which was seen at last year's Sundance Festival; and her most recent role as Eloisa Scrooge in Medoff's ***A Christmas Carousel***. She has also put in numerous television guest appearances, and plays Sister Sarah as a series regular on the soap opera ***Santa Barbara***. Currently, she is directing Deaf West's production of ***Brilliant Traces*** and can be seen by audiences this spring as she re-creates the role of Esther in Medoff's new play ***Gila*** at the Odyssey Theatre in Los Angeles.

When Frelich is not acting or directing, she enjoys designing and conducting workshops and acting classes for both Deaf and hearing students. As a guest lecturer and keynote speaker, she has appeared at a variety of educational institutions, civic and service organizations, and corporate conferences.

✏ Thanks to **Paulette R. Caswell** for forwarding this.

A REAL-LIFE "CUCKOO'S NEST"?

Allen Rich, an attorney in a $12 million lawsuit against a home for the deaf on Manhattan's Lower East Side said that mentally disabled patients were treated "like animals," beaten, drugged, and robbed of their government checks.

On July 22, **Caroline Torge**, 28, a former director of the home, sued the New York Society for the Deaf, which runs it. She said that residents were roughed up, even bruised, as workers tried to intimidate them. Many were drugged to make them easier to supervise. She also claimed that the residents also were allowed to sexually abuse each other, and one even molested a 2-year-old child in a public laundromat. The allegations outlined by Torge and her attorney, Rich, involve six deaf patients with mental disabilities.

The patients, some with a vocabulary of only a few words, were also robbed of their Social Security benefits, Rich claimed. The Society "was treating these deaf and developmentally disabled people like animals," he said.

Pearl Johnson, Executive Director of New York Society for the Deaf, said she was aware of the lawsuit but would have no comment until she read it.

Torge was hired in March 1995 and became director a few months later. She said she reported the alleged abuses to her boss, but was told to keep quiet and not tell anyone. She said she later told state authorities about the alleged abuses and of fraudulent billing practices. She left her job in January 1996 after being demoted and asked to take a pay cut. Rich said that Torge is seeking the money because she believes she was forced out of a job for trying to help the patients.

The nonprofit NYSD home is a beneficiary of funds from the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and other private and government money. It serves at least 60 other deaf residents who are not mentally disabled.

—Adapted from an AP release ➤

THINKING ABOUT DEAF STUDIES?

The University College of Continuing Education at Hofstra University is presenting an Orientation to Sign Language, Monday, February 2, 1998, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Admission is free. Please note that pre-registration is required.

Featuring faculty and coordinators of the *Deaf Studies Certificate Program* in assorted presentations on issues of vital concern to people in the field of Deaf Studies, this orientation helps the participant to become more aware of what the Deaf Studies field is all about. Participants are exposed to an overview of American Sign Language, its history and present practice in this country, as well as examples of fingerspelling and interpreting. Sign-language newcomers may very well come away from the session with a beginning vocabulary in ASL. The Deaf Studies program coordinators will be present to address issues relevant to career concerns.

For more information about *Orientation to Sign Language* and upcoming events, call University College for Continuing Education at ☎(516) 463-5993.

Background: Hofstra University is a private liberal-arts institution founded in 1935 and located in suburban Long Island, 25 miles east of New York City. It holds 32 accreditations and a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. The current school population is comprised of 7,000 full-time undergraduate and 5,000 part-time and graduate students. Hofstra's 238-acre campus is a registered arboretum and accredited museum.

HYPERNEWS & VIDEO-CHATS: VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS ARE REALITY

a report by **Katherine DeLorenzo**

Picture a classroom where students are given dynamic assignments on their laptop computers. With a point and click, they can have access to the course syllabus, participate in real-time conversations with participants hundreds of miles away, take quizzes that are corrected and returned within seconds, watch videos, access library resources, and upload essays.

A virtual classroom environment like this may seem like the stuff of science-fiction novels, but, in fact, Gallaudet University already has several "smart" classrooms where faculty and students can do these things, and more.

Over the next 3 years, Gallaudet's information-technology plan will affect every aspect of campus life, from the E-mail software used by campus personnel, faculty, and students to the development of electronic-presentation systems for use in classrooms and meetings. "We will be jumping from 1983 software and E-mail to 1997 applications," said Dr. **Trent Batson**, Director of Academic Technology.

According to Batson, the enhanced capabilities permitted by new server hardware and software will allow the campus community to use standard formatting in all documents, photos, graphics, and other types of documents that current software does not support.

The most obvious aspect of this major step forward is in Gallaudet's membership in the Internet2, a collaboration of 112 universities across the country in what has been termed a "next-generation Internet" project designed to provide faster access on a noncommercial network for major research universities. Begun only a year ago under the auspices of the National Science Foundation, Internet2 will use high-speed networking provided by MCI Communications Corporation.

The universities that make up Internet2 have recently formed a corporate partnership called the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID). Along with increased speed, Internet2's most promising use for Gallaudet is in its video capabilities, said Batson. "For us, the I-2 will provide the ability to present real-time video conferencing. A person at Gallaudet can communicate in sign language with someone on the West Coast."

Currently in testing, some Internet2 functions could be accessible as early as next summer, and more universities are expected to join. Besides Batson, members of the project team include **Roger Doty**, Director of Computer Services; **John Day**, University Librarian; **Cynthia King**, Educational Foundations and Research professor and research scientist and Chair of Academic Affairs' Technology Committee; and **Mike Kaika**, Director of Media Relations.

Some faculty and students are not waiting until next year to join the wave of technological revolution. For many, technology in the classroom is already an everyday reality. This past fall, Academic Technology coordinated a pilot laptop project for several classes taught by Professors **Jay Innes** and **Richard Lytle** of the Department of Education. This project was modeled on a successful Wake Forest University program, which has now resulted in a 100%-laptop environment at the university. Thirty-two students are currently involved in the program, which is expected to expand next year as more faculty become involved.

Academic Technology also participated in several projects with the Academic Affairs Technology Advisory Committee, a collaboration designed to promote interactive learning using technology both in and outside of the classroom. The program, called "LEARN97," provided computers for student organizations and upgraded campus servers, along with the installation of electronic-presentation systems in several classrooms.

Academic Technology also provides classes and training for faculty, staff, and students, ranging from simple Web-page design to the use of sophisticated audio-visual media such as digital cameras. Faculty no longer have to create their own Web pages; AT now offers Web applications—many developed by Dr. King—for faculty use.

Plans also underway to create a centralized technology "help desk," where standard Gallaudet software-user support will be available. The help desk will also allow departments and individuals to track orders of new hardware and software. Detailed information about classes and submitting course Web pages can be found in the department's Academic Technology Newsletter, or at its Website: ✱http://acadtech.gallaudet.edu/.

Some professors at Gallaudet have gone beyond the mere implementation of class Web pages. In addition to a dynamic syllabus, Dr. **Janet Pray**, Technology Fellow of the Department of Social Work, has begun using HyperNews for class discussions and projects. With its user-friendly interface, password-protected Web access, and flexibility, HyperNews has rapidly become a popular teaching tool. Student discussion areas are marked by icons that represent pro and con views, rebuttals, new assignments, and those which have pressing deadlines.

Programs like HyperNews and laptops do require training, however. "It takes time to train students, but as we progress, it becomes more and more enjoyable," said Pray.

Last year, Pray co-taught a social-work course with Dr. **Martha Sheridan**, who was then at the University of Ohio. The class was conducted using video and internet relay chat (IRC) discussions. Sheridan, who is the first deaf person to receive a doctorate in social work, has since joined the faculty at Gallaudet.

Not only does technology use benefit instruction, Pray believes, it also gives students a competitive edge in an increasingly technology-oriented workforce. Because training is so expensive at the professional level, companies and organizations are eager to hire graduates who already possess such skills. Other uses of technology include a software practice version of the social-work licensing-board test, which offers immediate feedback on students' answers.

Moreover, Pray believes that contributions to the HyperNews forum show that students are motivated to continue thinking about issues raised and discussed in class outside the classroom. Another positive aspect is its effect on more passive students. "My students who are quiet in class are very vocal on the computer," said Pray. "There's more opportunity to get involved, and less passivity," she said. HyperNews forums, presently in use at the graduate level, will be incorporated at the undergraduate level as well.

Last October, Pray presented two lectures on educational technology, the first with Dr. Sheridan and Academic Technology Specialist **Deirdre McGlynn** at an Information Technology conference sponsored by the University of Southern California College of Social Work, and more recently at an Educational Testing Service conference, *Educating Social Workers for the 21st Century*, at the Kellogg Conference Center,

Not long ago, Pray received a query from a prospective graduate student who specifically requested information on what kind of technology was used in the social-work curriculum. Such requests, she believes, show the importance of technology in student recruitment as well as their preparation for careers. "We need to be ready," she said.

HOT LINKS

Imagine attending a conference in New Zealand with several presenters from universities around the country, all experts in their field. Imagine being able to do this several times a semester, without ever leaving campus.

"The creative opportunities are endless," said **Toby Silver**, Coordinator of Distance Education Programs in the Gallaudet University Conference Management Unit. As an example, Silver, who coordinates technology-based programming for the College of Continuing Education (CCE), points to such recent teleconferences as the Deaf Awareness Week on Education Access Teleconference, cosponsored by the Center for Global Education with the assistance of Center Director **Donalda Ammons**. The event served as part of Deaf Awareness Week in New Zealand, and featured a live interactive dialogue between panelists at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand, and Gallaudet.

A two-way videoconference between Gallaudet and Chiba, Japan, in celebration of Gallaudet Day 1997 also offered more than a hint of the promise such technology holds for deaf people. Emceed by Dr. Ammons, the event featured performances by students **Melissa Draganac** and **Dan Mathis**, and ASL Professor **E. Lynn Jacobowitz**, who performed live to an audience of 200 deaf and hard-of-hearing Japanese people 16,000 miles away.

Hosting the event from Chiba's end was the Gallaudet University Alumni Association's Nippon Chapter President **Michiko Morimoto Tsuchiya** ('70) and event organizer **Yoko Kuwahara**, who works at the Imperial Hotel, a five-star hotel in Tokyo. Kuwahara met Gallaudet President **I. King Jordan** during his trip to Japan and hopes to attend Gallaudet University someday.

The event was also remarkable in that it included four languages (ASL, Shu-wa or Japanese Sign Language, and spoken English and Japanese, with Tsuchiya providing JSL-ASL translation for the Japanese audience. "Technology has made Gallaudet University a neighbor to us," Tsuchiya said after the conference.

In addition to Dr. Jordan and Office of Alumni Relations Director **Mary Anne Pugin**, the event also featured a keynote address by Dr. **Vinton G. Cerf**, the newest member of Gallaudet's Board of Trustees and MCI's Senior Vice President of Internet Architecture. Several Gallaudet students from Japan were in attendance.

"It doesn't matter where we are in the world," Cerf told his audience, "electronic communication has brought us together."

MCI and MCI Global ISDN provided sponsorship for technical support at both locations. On-site interpreters and refreshments at Gallaudet's end were provided by Alumni Relations.

"The experience we all had that night was culturally wonderful," said Silver afterwards. "This event was one-of-a-kind for Gallaudet, a historical moment linking two countries."

In past weeks, Gallaudet faculty, staff, and students have been treated to a flurry of teleconferences devoted to specific programs and issues. An interactive videoconference workshop on evaluating teacher performance allowed faculty, department chairs, and administrators to explore issues in the practice and implementation of faculty evaluation.

Recently, *Race Relations in Higher Education: A Prescription for Empowerment and Progress* offered a live videoconference on hotly-debated topics like affirmative action and campus-diversity programs, led by such notable panelists as Harvard University Law Professor **Christopher**

Edley and renowned scholar and Duke University Professor **Stanley Fish**.

What's more, such downlinked teleconferences show how technology benefits technology education. Dr. **Marshall Wick**, a professor in the School of Management, led a question-and-answer session for the technology videoconference *Putting Your Course On-Line: A How-To for Faculty*, which included panelists from four universities across the United States and interviews with a number of academic-technology and instructional-development professionals. A conference cosponsored with Academic Technology focused on technology-enhanced instruction.

Besides offering ways to promote professional training and personal development, live videoconferences are also inexpensive and easily accessible to the community, reducing travel costs and presenter fees, and allowing for greater distribution to a larger audience. Costs for "downlinking"—the term used to describe satellite transmission to multiple licensed sites—are shared by the various programs and departments that benefit from the videoconferences. The diversity teleconference, for example, was sponsored by Academic Affairs, the Office of Diversity and Community Relations, and CCE.

"This is the wave of the future," said Silver. "Technology has made the world smaller, while allowing us more opportunities to take advantage of its rich resources."

In addition to its position as a licensed downlink site, Gallaudet also has a strong future in the development of educational programs of its own through *Gallaudet Via Satellite*, which showcases University faculty and staff members expertise in a variety of topics. There are also plans for a special interactive teleconference series, *Deaf President Now: The Next Millennium*, scheduled for this spring. The series will include a talk show geared toward teenagers and young adults, a live telecast of the Academic Superbowl competition, and *Deaf President Now: The Pulse of the People*, scheduled during the *Deaf President Now Revisited* conference, which will look at the movement and its impact on deaf youth.

Such "homegrown" programs clearly mark Gallaudet as an emerging voice in distance education. "I want to see Gallaudet become a leader in the teleconference arena where faculty and staff can showcase their areas of expertise," Silver said. Gallaudet has already produced three successful teleconferences: *DPN: The Power and the Promise*, *Share the Word*, a literacy conference, and the hugely popular *Telling Tales in ASL*, which was broadcast to 110 sites, including several in Canada, during the *Deaf Studies V Conference* last April.

Silver is currently negotiating for greater captioning accessibility to reach an even greater number of people. She says: "People out there are hungry for programming" of this type, and teleconferences "offer a very powerful tool in adult education."

—Katherine DeLorenzo

* * *

CELEBRATING & CONNECTING

Ten years ago, the Deaf President Now! movement rocked the campus of Gallaudet University, and the deaf communities throughout the world. To commemorate the tenth anniversary of this pivotal movement in deaf history, Gallaudet University enthusiastically announces a special-edition teleconference series, *Deaf President Now: The Next Millennium*. Broadcast live via satellite from the campus of Gallaudet University and aired on three dates throughout Spring, this educational and entertaining series is geared toward teenagers and young adults. To encourage as many viewers as possible to join in the celebration, Gallaudet is offering the site licenses at no charge to downlink the programs.

≤ Wednesday, February 11, 1-2:30 p.m. EST

Reach for the Stars: You CAN!—Gallaudet student co-hosts **Ann Lynn Smith** and **David Kurs**, with their guests **Jamie Clark**, the founder and president of Clark Internet Services, Inc. (ClarkNet), and Eva Roque, research biologist at the National Institutes of Health Dental Research Laboratory, welcome you to an intriguing career forum for today's youth. This interactive talk show examines the current job market, the keys to a successful career, and what employers are really looking for in prospective employees. Pre-taped footage of Deaf and HH professionals at their job sites, gives audience members a chance to see these "go-getters" in action.

≤ Friday, March 13, 1:00-3:00 p.m. EST

Deaf President Now: the Pulse of the People—During one week in March 1988, a crowd roared "Deaf President Now!" on the campus of Gallaudet University. Even though there was a lingering doubt that a deaf person could lead the school, a campus revolution erased that doubt and resulted in the appointment of Gallaudet's first deaf president, Dr. **I. King Jordan**. The exclusive teleconference will take place on the tenth anniversary of the day Dr. Jordan was appointed. Moderator **Dwight Benedict**, a dynamic television personality who hosted Gallaudet's first teleconference celebrating the inauguration of President Jordan, will introduce a diverse panel of guests, featuring members of Congress, media, private industry, and deaf teenagers. Discussions will cover topics including empowerment, advocacy, vocation, and the DPN Movement's continued resonance in our world today.

≤ April 24, 4:00-5:30 p.m. EDT

Academic Super Bowl—Tune in for the live broadcast of the championship round of the Second National Academic Bowl where regional competitors from the "Final Five" will compete for the coveted national title. Challenging questions will be drawn from categories such as History, Geography, Deaf Studies, Language and Literature, Mathematics, and many more! As an As an added attraction, judges will draw the name of one registered site—maybe your site—to answer a question in the bonus round for a chance at win a prize. Join host Dr. Donalda K. Ammons for this exciting competition in which Deaf and HH high-school students match wits.

Live, interactive video and audio teleconferencing makes it possible for participants at sites around the country not only to "attend" this program, but to participate as well. Questions and comments submitted via TTY, fax, or voice will reach the guest experts during the program, and their answers will become part of the show. The teleconference will be transmitted in both C- and Ku-bands. Complete information on satellite will be included in the guide provided to each Site Coordinator. This series will be brought to the public, free of charge.

To register, or for more information, contact the College for Continuing Education at ☎(202) 651-6060 or ☎202) 651-6053 (TTY/Voice), ❐(202) 651-6074 or ❐(202) 651-6038 (FAX), or contact Toby R. Silver by E-mail at ❖trsilver@gallua.gallaudet.edu or ❖teleconf@gallua.gallaudet.edu for more information on the program and planning. Visit the Website: ✱http://www.gallaudet.edu/cceweb/disted/de.html. To learn about the many other events being planned to celebrate DPN, including the Deaf President Now Revisited Conference (March 12-13), check the Gallaudet University Website at ✱http://www.gallaudet.edu.

Gallaudet University Regional Centers

≤ **College for Continuing Education**
Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center
800 Florida Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20002
☎(202) 651-6060 (TTY/Voice)
☎(202) 651-6053 (TTY/Voice)
❐(202) 651-6074; ❐(202) 651-6038 (FAX)
❖teleconf@gallua.gallaudet.edu (E-mail)

Mid-Atlantic states served: Delaware, Washington, D.C., Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

≤ **Northern Essex Community College**
100 Elliott Way
Haverhill, MA 01830
☎(978) 556-3701 (TTY/Voice)
❐(978) 556-3723 (FAX)
❖gurcnecc@gallua.gallaudet.edu (E-mail)

Northeastern states served: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont

≤ **Flagler College**
P.O. Box 1027
St. Augustine FL 32085-1027
☎❐(904) 829-2424 (TTY/FAX)
☎(904) 829-6481 ext. 216 (Voice)
❖grcflagler@aol.com (E-mail)

Southeastern states served: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

≤ **Johnson County Community College**
12345 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66210-1299
☎(913) 469-3872 (TTY/Voice)
❐(913) 469-4416 (FAX)
❖gurcjcc@gallua.gallaudet.edu

Midwestern states served: Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin

≤ **Ohlone College**
43600 Mission Boulevard
Fremont, CA 94539
☎(510) 659-6050 (TTY)
☎(510) 659-6268 (TTY/Voice)
❐(510) 659-6033 (FAX)
❖gurcohlone@gallua.gallaudet.edu (E-mail)

Western states served: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah Washington, Wyoming

≤ **Kapiolani Community College**
4303 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu, HI 96816-4496
☎(808) 734-9210 (TTY/Voice)
❐(808) 734-9238 (FAX)
❖gurckcc@gallua.gallaudet.edu (E-mail)

Pacific regions served: Hawaiian Pacific islands, including U.S. Territories

This teleconference series is funded in part by the Merrill Lynch Foundation and in partnership by the Office of the President; College for Continuing Education and its Gallaudet University Regional Centers; School of Undergraduate Studies; School of Management; Department of TV, Photography, and Educational Technology in the School of Communications; and Office of Enrollment Services. It will be presented in ASL with spoken English audio and open-captions.

Tell your friends about us!

FAMILY AFFAIRS

Last year, 7 programs across the United States were selected to participate in the March 1998 Partners for Progress National Forum on Family Involvement at Gallaudet University, sponsored by Pre-College National Mission Programs.*

These are:

- The Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind Statewide Programs in Early Childhood Education and Technical Assistance to Schools and Programs, Tucson. The program serves deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth to age 5, multiply disabled or deaf-blind infants and toddlers and their families. Services include audiological assessments, Individualized Family Service Plan development, parent education, sign-language classes, toddler groups, therapies, and assistance with obtaining needed social and preschool transitioning services. Supervisor **Peggy Kile** and **Julianne Reble**, mother of a 4-year-old deaf daughter, will attend the forum.
- Hawaii Services on Deafness American Sign Language Training for Families Program, Honolulu. The program, designed to meet the needs of families who are served by the Hawaii Center for the Deaf and the Blind and various mainstream state educational programs, makes ASL accessible to working families by providing after-work classes, Child care for infants, and staff support for family involvement. Executive Director **Janet Johanson** and **Valerie O'Brien**, mother of a 13-year-old deaf daughter, will attend the forum.
- The Hearing, Speech, and Deafness Center, Seattle, Washington. The Center serves the community through a compressive family-centered program that also works extensively with organizations, schools, and other centers to address the educational, service, consultative, and training needs of deaf and HH children, their families, and practitioners. Parent-Infant Program Director **Lori Seago** and **Connie Best**, mother of a 3-year-old deaf daughter, will attend the forum.
- Lexington School for the Deaf, The Ready to Learn Program, Jackson Heights, New York. This private, state-supported school provides educational programs for approximately 400 severely to profoundly deaf students from birth through 21 years of age. The program is family-centered and provides school and home-based family sessions, play groups, parent groups, and sign language classes. Director **Janice Berchin-Weiss** and **Denise Homer**, mother of a 2-1/2-year-old deaf son, will attend the forum.
- The Los Angeles Unified School District Deaf and Hard of Hearing Parent-Infant Program, Encino, California. The program serves deaf and HH infants and toddlers under 3 years old who may also have additional disabilities, and their families. It provides both in-home and Family Center services throughout the district. Infant Service Coordinator **Janice Myck-Wayne** and **Melissa Caballero**, mother of a 3-year-old deaf daughter, will attend the forum.
- The Louisville Deaf Oral School, Kentucky. This is a private, non-profit day school that offers comprehensive early-childhood programs and services to deaf and HH children and their families. It enrolls approximately 80 to 100 deaf and HH children from 15 to 18 public schools in the Central Kentucky and southern Indiana area. Its family-involvement program is based on the development of an "equality partnership" model for the education of deaf and HH children. School Director **Mona McCubbin** and **Sharon Feulmer**, mother of 4-1/2-year old deaf daughter, will attend the forum.
- Tennessee School for the Deaf Parent Outreach Program, Knoxville. This is a state-supported special school that serves deaf and hard-of-hearing students from across the state as both a day school and a residential program. The Parent Outreach Program serves families across the state with community-based and statewide services that include "Sibshops," sign-language classes, summer camps, family learning weekends, regional parent meetings, and parent support groups. Parent Coordinator **Carol Robbins** and **Valerie Sloan**, mother of a 21-year-old deaf daughter and a 14-year-old deaf son, will attend the forum.

*See "Looking at the overlooked," December 1997 "News Briefs," pp. 11-12.

SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE

The National Deaf Education Project begins work this year. The NDEP, a 4-year, half-time project funded by the Milken Family Foundation, has as its central goal the establishment of broad standards and quality programs that place communication development and access at the core of deaf education.

The NDEP represents an historic collaboration project between Gallaudet University, NTID, NAD, the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools for the Deaf (CEASD), the Convention of the American Instructors of the Deaf (CAID), and the American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC). These groups have come together to assist the NDEP in its reform efforts.

Lawrence Siegel, an attorney in California, is the founder and Director of the NDEP He has long been involved in advocating for deaf and hard-of-hearing children. He wrote the nation's first deaf children's "bill of rights" (South Dakota), and is co-founder of the California Deaf Education Coalition, a former NAD member, a commissioner on the California Advisory Commission on special Education, and a member of numerous organizations and task forces, including the California Deaf Education Task Force. Siegel has written and spoken extensively about deaf education and has testified before federal and state legislatures. He is the author of **Least Restrictive Environment: the Paradox of Inclusion** (published by LRP, 1994) and **The Individualized Education Program Guide: How to Advocate for your Special Education Child** (Nolo Press, 1998).

Says ASDC Executive Director **Sandy Harvey**: "Hearing children take it for granted they will be in a rich language environment, rarely conscious of whether there are enough peers or staff to communicate with. Deaf children have the same right and expectation and neither they nor their parents should have to struggle for the most basic of human and educational needs: communication, development and access."

Siegel adds: "There has been a systematic failure in this nation to recognize the unique communication needs of deaf children, to help them develop language and provide them with a rich language."

The NDEP will work with the state, parent, and consumer organizations to develop model state programs for deaf children and assist with other state issues, provide help in developing and enacting state "bill of rights" legislation, and work with national organizations to develop federal policy and law. Finally NDEP will assist in implementing new IDEA language that calls for "communicatively appropriate" IEPs.

MORE SCHOOL TERPS FOR NEBRASKA

This January, the University of Nebraska at Omaha began the state's first project aimed at training educational interpreters. The new training project allows interpreters now working in Nebraska's K-12 schools to upgrade their skills and open the door for others to pursue a career in educational interpreting. "Interpreters trained through this project will greatly enhance the overall learning of deaf or hard of hearing students in Nebraska,'' said **Richard Flynn**, Dean of UNO's College of Education.

UNO, the Nebraska Department of Education, and the Center on Childhood Deafness at Boys Town National Research Hospital worked together to develop the state's first educational-interpreter training project. It provides comprehensive training for those now working as interpreters in K-12 schools as well as those planning to work as educational interpreters.

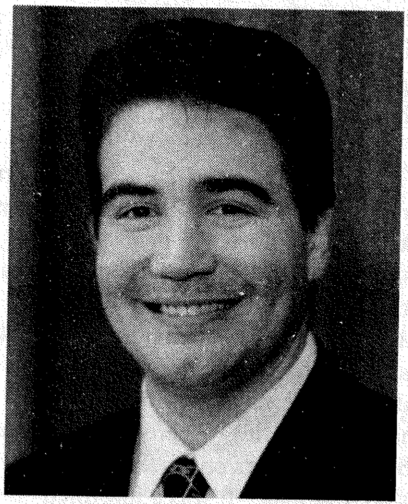
Don Anderson, special populations administrator for the state Department of Education, said that it will also help interpreters meet Nebraska's new state requirements for educational interpreters and increase the number of trained interpreters available to school districts statewide. Nebraska's current guidelines for educational interpreters will be the basis of the new requirements, which will be effective in the 2001-02 school year.

The project will expand learning opportunities for students, Anderson said, and support the regional project concept that the state is developing to educate deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Representatives of the Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf have responded favorably to the project, Anderson said.

It offers ASL courses and focuses on child development, the learning process, and teaching skills that educational interpreters need to help deaf and HH students. UNO Professor **David Conway** said that the immediate goal is to prepare those now working as interpreters to meet Nebraska's new requirements for educational interpreters. The long-range goal is to offer a comprehensive training program for those who want to pursue educational interpreting as a career.

For more information about the project, call David Conway at ☎(402) 554-3339.

HIS BUSINESS? MINDING RSD'S



Anthony Di Giovanni

Anthony Di Giovanni is Rochester School for the Deaf's new Business Manager.

Di Giovanni, who resides in Irondequoit, is an alumnus of Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf in Long Island, and 1994 graduate of RIT, where he majored in Accounting with a CPA concentration and a minor in Economics. While at RIT, he was president of the NTID student government.

At RIT, his cooperative-work programs gave him experience as an accountant with the United Way of Greater Rochester, and at J.P. Morgan Company in New York City. During the past 3 years, he has worked as a business partner for LS Systems, Inc., a tax preparer for H&R Block in Rochester, an outreach partner for the AT&T National Relay Service Center in New Jersey, and as account executive for the **DeafNation** monthly newspaper in Michigan.

His wife **Barbara** is a teacher at RSD. Their first child, **Anthony Victor Di Giovanni V**, was born in August.

As Business Manager at RSD, Di Giovanni is responsible for the overall financial operation of the school. He also manages the school's business office and oversees the maintenance and housekeeping departments.

"We are pleased to have attracted a talented deaf professional to RSD," said Superintendent **Harold Mowl**. "Anthony's experience and enthusiasm strengthens the overall leadership at RSD."

"RSD is an international leader in deaf education," Di Giovanni said. "I'm honored to join the school and my wife in helping to provide the very best education that will enable deaf children to succeed."

PLANT FLOWERS— OR JUST DREAM THEM UP!

Visitors passing by the United States Botanic Gardens Conservatory in Washington, D.C., between now and the end of May, will get a colorful treat, courtesy of children from District schools, including Kendall Demonstration Elementary School.

Over the next 3 years, the conservatory will undergo extensive renovation and modernization, with the addition of new plants, exhibits, and educational displays, said **Carla Pastore**, supervisory horticulturist at the Gardens. During construction, a fence around the site will contain colorful murals painted by community and school groups on various botanical themes describing the aesthetic, cultural, therapeutic, economic, or ecological value of plants. A sign and caption attached to each mural identifies the school and theme.

Barbara Kaufman, KDES Grades 1 and 2 teacher, and art teacher **Wei-Min Shen** are coordinating KDES' participation in the project. All of the school's primary students are involved in the mural's creation. Its theme is "Keep America Beautiful, Plant Flowers,"

An outline of the United States map was first traced onto 4' x 6' plywood panels distributed to participating schools, and state flowers were painted inside each state with additional flowers adorning the map's boundaries. "There's a flower for every color of the rainbow and flowers only seen from the viewpoint of a child," said Kaufman. "It was a fun-filled activity for the children and they take great delight in pointing out the flowers that they painted."

Pastore met Kaufman when the two collaborated on a previous KDES project two years ago. "We did a flower show based on the book **Charlotte's Web**, and Barbara's class borrowed our topiaries and put on a play," said Pastore. The experience made the selection of Kendall as a mural participant an easy one, she said.

The multi-disciplinary project not only teaches children about plants and art, but it also provides an interesting, educational display for the many tourists and federal workers who pass the site daily.

—Katherine DeLorenzo

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, WORKSHOPS, & FESTIVALS

REMEMBERING—AND UNDERSTANDING

In April 1988, the story of deaf Jewish survivors of the Holocaust broke new ground for both Deaf and Holocaust Studies with the opening of the stunning *In Der Nacht* exhibit at Gallaudet University.

Now, nearly 10 years later, the stories of deaf people during this era are again the focus of scholarly debate with the planning of an upcoming conference: *Deaf People in Hitler's Europe (1933-1945)*, slated for June 21-24.

Coordinated by Professors **John Schuchman** and **Donna Ryan** of Gallaudet's History and Government Department, the conference, described as "a community and scholarly conference devoted to the experience of deaf people in Europe under National Socialism," will include a diverse mix of scholars and lecturers.

In preparation for the event, Dr. Schuchman and Dr. Ryan are arranging for the text of German exhibits to be translated for inclusion in the conference. The *In Der Nacht* exhibit will also feature prominently. In addition to lectures, panel discussions, and exhibits, translated videotapes and archival footage will be shown.

Originally planned as a study of the Holocaust and Deafness, the conference title was changed recently to reflect the ongoing debate over the use of the term "Holocaust." In addition to Deaf Jewish survivors, Schuchman and Ryan's project includes other deaf survivors, disabled people, and an exploration of eugenics and the Nazi practice of sterilizing deaf people.

Schuchman says that in addition to the topic of eugenics, the origins of neo-Nazism, and the long-obscured role of deaf people as part of the Nazi regime itself, will be discussed. Another guest lecturer will discuss the destruction of the Jewish Institution for the Deaf in Berlin.

Of special interest to the conference planners are the first-person accounts collected from a number of living Hungarian Deaf Jewish survivors. "When we went to Budapest, we heard rumors about a group of deaf people who were survivors of the Holocaust," said Schuchman. He and Ryan conducted interviews with 12 of these survivors.

Also participating in the conference project is Dr. **Israel Sela**, who, like Schuchman, is a child of deaf parents. Sela, who received his doctorate from Gallaudet, has done extensive research on deaf Jewish schools. According to a recent article in **The Jewish Chronicle**, Sela installed a plaque in 1994 marking the site of a demolished Jewish school for deaf people in Budapest, Hungary—one of several such schools.

The 3-day conference will coincide with a one-day conference on deaf survivors of the Holocaust that will take place at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. For Schuchman, this event signals a recognition of the special place of Deaf Jews in the Holocaust. "We feel it's important because the Museum will recognize that deaf people were included in the Holocaust," he said.

Schuchman pointed out that recent legislation in at least two states requires that the Holocaust and its historical significance be taught in schools. Often lacking from this discourse, though, is the inclusion of teaching about the treatment of deaf and disabled Jews.

The conference will also examine aspects of the Holocaust that are very much a part of current debate: How should it be taught and in what areas is more information needed?

For more information: ☎(202) 651-5474 (TTY/Voice,
❒(202) 651-5652 (FAX);
❖jsschuchmant@gallua.gallaudet.edu or
❖dfryan@gallua.gallaudet.edu (E-mail).

—Katherine DeLorenzo

TIME FOR ANOTHER N.C.J.D. SIMCHA!°

The 1998 National Congress of Jewish Deaf Convention (22nd Biennial Convention), will be held August 11-15, at Universal City, California—in the heart of Universal Studios. It's being hosted by Temple Beth Solomon of the Deaf. Need more information or a convention packet? Contact Convention Chairperson **Fred Lovitch** at ☎(818) 896-6721 (TTY), ☎(818) 899-2202 (Voice), ❒(818) 899-2123 (FAX), ❒flovitch@aol.com (E-mail).

simcha: joyous gathering; celebration.

✖✖✖NAD logo✖✖✖

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

At their December 1997 meeting, the NAD Board of Directors voted to change the name of the national biennial meeting from "convention" to "conference," effective immediately. There were several good reasons. After all, the numerous workshops, forums, seminars, and presentations scheduled during the week are a major part of the event. For many years, government employees (federal, state, and local) have expressed their concern that they were unable to receive support from their supervisors to attend NAD biennial "conventions." Furthermore, it's important that the conference attract as diverse a group of participants as possible, and that there be a wide variety of opportunities for training and information sharing. "Conference" has a broader, more serious undertone than "convention."

The National NAD Conference will be held July 7-11 in San Antonio, Texas. Theme: "Branding Our Future: Leading, Not Lassoed." Workshops, seminars, and forums on a variety of topics will continue throughout the conference week.

Workshop/presentation topic areas are expected to include the following: workplace accommodations; interpreting; health-care access; leadership training; legal rights; captioning; computing technologies for the workplace and the home; career success; multicultural issues; deaf-blind; parenting; deaf studies; personal investment; ASL; Deaf/hearing family issues; education; and much more!

Other events include more than 100 exhibits and two hot attractions: the College Bowl, an academic and Deaf Culture competition between Gallaudet University, CSUN, and NTID students, and the ever-popular Miss Deaf America Pageant.

Nine symposiums, each focusing on specific issues and areas of concern to deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers, families and professional, will meet three times during the week and will allow all members the opportunity to participate in establishing issues and priorities for NAD for the next two years.

FUN FOR F.R.A.T.ERS

The 28th Quadrennial Convention of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf will be held at Buena Vista Palace at Walt Disney Village World, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, near Orlando, Thursday through Saturday, July 22-24, 1999. It's being co-sponsored by Miami-Fort Lauderdale Division #160 and St. Augustine Division #168. Division delegates and NFSD officers will attend the meetings on Friday and Saturday.

More details later on registration, reception, Hall of Fame luncheon, night buffet/show and banquet.

Pre-convention tours to such attractions as Walt Disney World, Epcot Center, Universal and MGM Studios, Sea World, Cypress Gardens, etc., starting on Sunday, July 19, or earlier, will be arranged for early arrivals.

Disney World will incorporate sign-language interpreters, innovative captioning systems, and other audiovisual aids into more than 100 rides, parades, attractions, and shows at four domestic theme parks.

A golf tournament will be held prior to the convention (Tuesday, July 21). If you're interested in participating, contact **Roy De Motte**, 125 Azalea Drive, Daytona Beach, FL 32117; ☎(904) 238-1222 (TTY). Other possible events TBA.

To be kept informed, contact Convention Chair **Doris Berman** at ☎(954) 720-5619 (TTY) or ❒(954) 721-8852 (FAX); or **Manny Golden** at ☎(904) 797-3817 (TTY) or ❒(904) 794-1679 (FAX).

BRIEFLY NOTED

➨ *The National Training Conference on Employment of Federal Employees Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing* will be held April 14-16 at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Contact: **Eric F. Spanbauer**, OASA (M&RA) EEO Agency, Crystal Mall 4, Suite 207, 1941 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202-450; ❒(703) 607-2042 (FAX); ❖spanbef@hqda.army.mil.

➨ *Empowerment Through Partnerships: PEPNet '98 Biennial Conference on Postsecondary Education for Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*, will be held April 29-May 2, at the Holiday Inn, International Drive, Orlando, Florida. Contact: **Marcia Kolvitz**, Outreach/Training Coordinator, Postsecondary Education Consortium, University of Tennessee, 2229 Dunford Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996-4020; ☎(423) 974-8428 (TTY); ☎(423) 974-8427 (Voice); ❒(423) 974-3522 (FAX); ❖pec@utk.edu.

➨ The *16th Annual National Black Deaf Conference* will be held Monday, August 10, through Sunday, August 16, at the Westin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. Hosted by Indianapolis Black Deaf Advocates. Theme: "The Black Deaf Community: Building Collaborative Partnerships." Contacts: **Donald Tinsley** at ☎(317) 298-3705 (TTY/Voice) or ☎(317) 232-1143 (TTY/Voice), or **Lori Qadir** at ☎(317) 931-0757 (TTY) or ☎(317) 475-2106 (Voice).

➨ *The First International Conference on Deaf Education & Technology: "Tools for the 21st Century,"* will be held November 17-22, in conjunction with Deaf Awareness Week, in Bermuda. Deadline for proposals is March 30. Contact: **Jennifer Jeffers-Grant**, Chair, 1st International Conference on Deafness, P.O. Box 1749, Hamilton HM GX, Bermuda; ☎❒(441) 238-8116 (TTY/FAX); ❖jeffers@ibl.bm.

* * *

companion, **Frank Heintz** the old man, and **Philip Goldberg** the young man who cons the businessman out of a generous "donation." The ending, with the closeup shot of Zdanko's expression when he realizes he's been conned, made audiences laugh hysterically when it was first shown—and it still does.

A Cake of Soap, like Marshall's other productions, was filmed on a shoestring budget. Like most of his other films, it's in 16mm. black-and-white. What makes it noteworthy is that it consisted entirely of Deaf actors using ASL—the everyday language of Deaf people, which had not even yet been given a name. It's great fun to watch, and is still fresh and funny.

Marshall produced nine films. "This is the best," he says about *A Cake of Soap*. "The majority of deaf viewers at scattered places around this country enjoyed it immensely where it was shown."

*Emerson Romero (1900-1972), born in Cuba and educated at various schools in the U.S., was the cousin of the well-known Hollywood actor **Cesar Romero**. He had enjoyed a promising career as a silent-comedy actor himself, but left Hollywood, and acting, after the "talkies" took over in 1927. In Hollywood, he had gained experience in shooting and cutting film and writing subtitles, and remained involved in filmmaking. He and Marshall were good friends. (Some of Marshall's films contain carefully hand-lettered subtitles.)

During the 1930s, he became a pioneer in the field of captioning films for other deaf people, predating **Mac Norwood** and the Captioned Films for the Deaf program by many years. Working in his spare time (he held a number of jobs during his life), Romero painstakingly spliced captions onto purchased films, frame by frame. His efforts were technically primitive, but did inspire others to establish the Captioned Films for the Deaf program in the department then known as the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped. During the Depression, though, there was no commercial market for captioning (nobody except deaf people wanted to watch silent films with subtitles anymore), and the demand for captioned domestic films was small, so Romero's idea of captioned films remained a novelty until 1959, when CFD was established as a Federal agency.

Romero was also a pioneering inventor, manufacturer, and marketer of signaling devices and adaptive technology for deaf people—e.g., alarm clocks.

THE DEAF FILMMAKER'S EYE

From the arrival of film technology at the beginning of the century all the way up to the present day, Deaf people have been making movies of themselves, their lives, and their sign language. These unique motion pictures are the subject of this spring's Annual ASL/Deaf Culture Lecture Series at the University of Virginia.

Four prominent Deaf filmmakers and scholars are coming to UVA and discussing movies by and about Deaf people. Each lecturer is showing clips of Deaf films, and the final installment will include the screening of ***I Love You—But***, a feature-length movie. The schedule:

Friday, February 6: **Ted Supalla**, Associate Professor of Linguistics at the University of Rochester and director of UR's ASL program, is speaking on "Historical Films: A Window to Deaf America in the Early 20th Century." He is showing video segments from the archives of Gallaudet University and the NAD and discussing what these early films reveal about Deaf history and the evolution of ASL.

Monday, March 2: **Ann Marie "Jade" Bryan**, the most successful Deaf African-American filmmaker working today, will give a presentation entitled "'Lights, Camera, Deaf!' Creating Change Through Film." During her presentation, she will show excerpts from her movies, including the award-winning ***Listen to the Hands of Our People***.

Tuesday, March 24: **Dawn Skwersky**, who has written, produced, and directed several acclaimed films, will share her perspectives in a lecture called "He Says, She Signs: Capturing the Deaf Experience on Film." She will show several of her short films, including ***Someone She Loved*** and ***Look at Me So I Can Hear You***.

Thursday, April 16: **Lawrence Fleischer**, Professor of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies at CSUN, will discuss a feature-length movie, ***I Love You—But***, which marked his debut in the movie-making business. The film will then be shown in its entirety to wrap up this year's program.

All lectures begin at 7 p.m. in McLeod Hall Auditorium on the University of Virginia campus. They are free and open to the public. Voice-over English interpretation is provided for non-signing members of the audience.

The Annual ASL/Deaf Culture Lecture Series has become a much-anticipated event in recent years. The series has brought a wide variety of talented Deaf scholars and performers to central Virginia to discuss such topics as Deaf history and culture; the linguistics of ASL; ASL poetry, theater, and storytelling; and Deaf artwork. This year's program is co-sponsored by: The UVA American Sign Language Program; the UVA College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board; the UVA Drama Dept.; the UVA Graduate Student Council; the UVA Office of the Vice President and Provost; the UVA Parents Fund; the UVA Psychology Department; the UVA Women's Center; the Virginia Association of the Deaf and its Skyline and Greater Richmond Chapters; the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind—Staunton; and the Charlottesville Optimist Club.

The University of Virginia is located in picturesque Charlottesville, approximately one hour west of Richmond and two hours southwest of Washington, D.C. For more information about the 1998 Annual ASL/Deaf Culture Lecture Series, contact either of the co-directors: **Lisa J. Berke** at ☎(804) 295-8871 (TTY), ☎1-800-828-1140 (Voice Relay), or ❖ljb9r@virginia.edu (E-mail); or **Chris Krentz** at ❖ck9m@virginia.edu. Or fax either at ❐(804) 924-1350.

ON THE BOARDS: CENTERLIGHT TRYOUTS

CenterLight Sign & Voice Theatre is holding auditions for a new play loosely based on Molière's classic farce, ***The Miser***. As is customary, this production will be performed simultaneously in sign language and voice by Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing actors. Most roles will be double-cast with a signing actor and a voice. It's highly desirable, but not necessary, for voicers to know ASL.

This production will be directed by **Joe Huber**. Scenic design is by Robert A. Artistic Director **Robert A. Knuth**.

Auditions are to be held Monday, February 9, and Wednesday, February 11, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Sheid Park, 3505 N. Southport, Chicago. Additional call-backs to be held Sunday, February 15, 1-4 p.m. Each audition will take 5 to 10 minutes. Some auditioners may be asked to stay and read with others.

Call for an appointment time at ☎(847) 559-9493 (TTY) or ☎(847) 559-0110, ext. 237 (Voice). Leave your name, TTY or phone number, and preferred date and approximate time you would like to audition. Your call will be returned. Walk-ins are welcome, too.

Ages: CenterLight Theatre is seeking to cast 2 females (2 voices) and 6 males (4 voices). Age range: women from late teens/early 20s to 30s, men from 20s to 50s.

Preparation: Actors are asked to prepare a 2-minute comic monologue and a short reading from the script. Readings will be available at the audition site. Bring a picture and a résumé.

Production: The production will be performed April 24-May 31, at the Griffin Theatre, 5404 N. Clark, Chicago. Rehearsals start March 1, and will be held some evenings and weekends *at various locations in Chicago*. There is pay. Salaries range between $350 and $500 for the run, based on experience and length of role.

More info: Call **Scott** at the above numbers weekdays 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., or leave a message.

CURTAIN UP, AWARENESS UP

High-school students from the Arizona School for the Deaf are planning their 7th annual performance for Deaf Awareness Days on Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27. ***Deaf World Ends? or Hearing World Ends?***, an original play written and performed by ASDB students, is the attraction.

The Thursday performance (9:45 a.m.) is for the older elementary and younger middle-school students. The Friday-morning performance (9:45 a.m.) is for the older middle-school and high-school students. The Friday-evening performance (7:00 p.m.) is for families and community. All performances will be in the Berger Performing Arts Center (located on Speedway Boulevard between Yucca Street and Grande Avenue), on the south edge of ASDB's Tucson campus.

Performances will be in ASL. Voice interpreters will be provided for parts of the performance. Hearing and deaf/HH students are welcome. This is a ticketed event; suggested donation is $3.00. Make your reservations by March 12.

School buses should park in the bus bay on Speedway Boulevard in front of the gym building, a short distance east of the PAC. Cars can park in the visitor/staff parking lot immediately west of the PAC.

If you need a campus map or have any questions, contact **Maureen J. Mazza** and **Julie W. Trotter**, High School teachers, or **Lea McCully**, secretary at ☎(520) 770-3644; ❐(520) 770-3752 (FAX).

CREATIVE ACCESS: WHAT'S UP

Here's Creative Access's current calendar of events in Philadelphia, Southeast Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the Delaware Valley, accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing people of all ages.

Reminder: Creative Access' new address is 108 Market Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106; ☎(215) 627-9271 (TTY/Voice); ☎(215) 627-957 (FAX); ❖CrAccess@aol.com (E-mail). Look for CA's new Web page soon!

A message from Carol Finkle: "Thank you and HEALTHY, HAPPY 1998 to all!"

WANNA TRY ONE?

Special community announcement for teachers, parents, and administrators at schools and programs for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, ages 10-18: Creative Access is coordinating the trial of a new listening device, Hearing Aid Telephone Interconnect System (HATIS), believed to enhance the enjoyment of music for many deaf and HH users. We wish to coordinate this project through schools and programs and are now seeking up to 25 students who wear hearing aids with T-coils, and whose parents would be willing to participate with them during the multi-part tryout of the new HATIS Listening Device.

Note: The last part of the experiment will be held at a performance of ***Swan Lake***, at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia during March. There will be much publicity about this new device, offering the possibility of your program/school/students receiving excellent publicity as well. Contact the Creative Access office as soon as possible to participate. Devices are limited and student/parent teams will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

THEATER ACCESS PROJECT

(Sign Language Interpreted/ALDs upon request)

● ***The King and I*** (with **Hayley Mills**), Saturday, January 31, 3:00 p.m., at the Merriam Theatre, 250 South Broad Street (at Spruce), Philadelphia. Tickets: $65.00, CA Members

Note: Seats in the interpreter sections are very limited for this show. Order tickets at your earliest convenience, and see two performances in one: The regular Broadway production . . . PLUS the incredible sign-language interpretation of **Alan Champion** and **Candice Broecker** right from the Broadway stage!

- **Theatre CARAVAN** (Professional theater for children) presents ***Hospice*** (for middle/high-school students), Friday, February 13 at 10:00 a.m. (seating limited), at Our Lady of Mount Carmel (will host our Deaf/hard-of-hearing students), 2329 South 3rd Street, Philadelphia. Free admission; donations appreciated.

Accessible "Sundays on Stage" for Children, Families, and Adults (A Free Library of Philadelphia/Creative Access collaboration), at 1901 Vine Street (wheelchair access in rear)

- "Voices of Africa Choral Ensemble"—An interactive program of songs from Africa and traditional instruments, including drums. February 22 at 2:00 p.m. (doors open at 1:30); free admission.
- "Cambodian Court Dancers"—in traditional costumes! March 15 at 2:00 p.m., same as above.

- **Pennsylvania Ballet**, "Accent on Dance/Student Programming," in collaboration with Creative Access, presents ***Swan Lake***. This is the second "Special 'Pre-Ballet' Program for Deaf And Hard-of-Hearing Students" offered by Creative Access. Note: Those turned away from ***The Nutcracker*** in December 1997 will get first seating. Again, the program will be limited to approximately 150 students/staff. ALDs should be ordered early. Student workbooks and videos will be supplied. Both sign-language and oral interpreters will be provided.

Tentative date: March 17—12:15 p.m. sharp!

Location: Academy of Music, Broad and Locust Streets, Philadelphia

Tickets: Free ($3-5 per person suggested contribution to Creative Access appreciated)

MOVIE ACCESS PROJECT

(Open-Captioned/ALDs upon request)

- ***Flubber*** (starring Robin Williams in this family Disney farce), Saturday, January 31, 3:00 p.m., at International House Theater, 3701 Chestnut St., Philadelphia. Tickets: $5.50 CA members; $6.50 non-members; $3.50 children under 12. Doors open one hour before the movie and there is metered on-street parking.
- ***The Jackal*** (starring Bruce Willis and Richard Gere), Saturday, February 28, 3:00 p.m. Place/Tickets: Same as above.

DEAF AND HH PERFORMING ARTISTS INITIATIVE

- **C.J. Jones** performs his one-man show "The Living Cartoon!" in ASL (with Voice interpretation), on Friday, February 27, 7:00 p.m. (Place TBA.) Workshops with Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing students will be held during the day. Tickets: $5.00 CA members/PSD community ($15.00 contribution appreciated). Note: Arrive early! C.J. Jones is very popular!

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spring: Deaf Performing Artists/Monique Holt (OrBit), and Peter Cook (details TBA)
- ***Stomp***, April 4, 5:00 p.m., Merriam Theatre. Tickets: $4.00 CA members
- ***Bring in da Funk, Bring in da Noise***, sign-interpreted Broadway show. Interpreters: **Cathleen Taylor** and **Morrison**. Saturday, May 9, 2 p.m., Forrest Theatre. Tickets: $65.00. Order now!
- ***Riverdance***—the Irish dance/audio-visual phenomenon that has taken America by storm! At Mann Music Center, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. Tickets: TBA
- Philadelphia Zoo, "African Safari" Tour, Summer. Dates and costs TBA. Sign-language interpreters provided! Number of participants is limited. Get on the list early!
- New Jersey State Aquarium (on the Delaware River waterfront in Camden): Join Creative Access' "Accessible Sign-Interpreted Sundays," interpreted in ASL. February 8: "Jazzin' the Deep;" March 14: Fishing Expo; April 4: Chomp's Birthday; May 3: Seal-A-Bration. Arrive anytime between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m., or plan ahead with Creative Access by contacting the office. CA's group will arrive at 1 p.m. These special Sunday events are free with regular Aquarium Admission ($10.95 for adults, $7.95 for children ages 3-11, and $9.95 for elderly people, age 65 and up).
- New York Deaf Theatre (A Creative Access/Camp Overbrook InSign5" Collaboration): "StorySign"—Performed in ASL and voiced English. A storytelling troupe that brings the magic of stories, poems, and hands-on improvisation to people of all ages throughout our communities. Friday, July 17, 7:00 p.m., St. Charles Seminary grounds, City Line Avenue and Wynnewood Road. Suggested donations: $5.00 adults; $3.00 children under 12.

PHILLY'S POPCORN PARADISE

Addresses of cultural venues hosting accessible programming for Deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences of all ages in Philadelphia, Southeast Pennsylvania, and the Delaware Valley

✔ Indicates "planning for accessibility" in 1998.
➧ Hopeful!

1. Arden Theater Company, 40 N. 2nd Street., Philadelphia
2. International House, 3701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. Doors open one hour before showtime.
3. Forrest Theatre, 1122 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. Ticketholders can pick up tickets starting 45 minutes before showtime.
4. Merriam Theatre, 250 South Broad Street, Philadelphia
5. Media Theatre, Media, PA ✔
6. Wilma Theatre, Broad and Spruce Street (N.E. Corner) ✔
7. Annenberg Center (University of Pennsylvania), 3680 Walnut Street, Philadelphia ➧

8. Pennsylvania Ballet: Broad and Washington Ave. (S.E. Corner), Philadelphia

9. Academy of Music, Broad and Locust Streets, Philadelphia ➧

10. Painted Bride Art Center, 230 Vine Street, Philadelphia ➧

11. Swarthmore Players, Swarthmore, PA ➧

12. Mann Music Center, 1617 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia ➧

13. People's Light and Theater Company, Malvern, PA

14. Theater CARAVAN: locations vary

15. University Of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, 33rd and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia

16. New Freedom Theatre, 1346 North Broad Street, Philadelphia ➧

17. Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, 7th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia ➧

18. Philadelphia ArtsBank (University of the Arts), Broad and South Streets (S.E. corner), Philadelphia

19. The Franklin Institute, 222 North 20th Street, Philadelphia ➧

20. The Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia ➧

21. Walnut Street Theatre Company, 825 Walnut Street, Philadelphia ➧

22. New Jersey State Aquarium (Monthly Sunday Family Events), Camden, NJ

23. The Philadelphia Zoo (Sign-interpreted "African Safari")

THE START OF SOMETHING BIG?

Like many comedies, this one had a happy ending for the hero and heroine. But much of the audience left the theater in suspense. Many of those who attended the July 20 Sunday matinee of the new comedy-fantasy film, ***A Simple Wish***, wondered if their first experience at simply buying tickets and easing into their seats like typical moviegoers would remain a rare experience or become routine. It's up to the film industry, said Toby Silver, Chairwoman of the Movie Access Coalition of nine advocacy organizations for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

The Coalition arranged with Universal Studios and Cineplex Odeon theaters for open-captioned showings of ***A Simple Wish*** at theaters in Washington, New York, Chicago, and Universal City.

Open-captions are thus called because they're "built into" the print of the film and are visible to everyone in the audience, unlike closed-captions on TV, which require a decoder unit or chip to make them visible onscreen. In some respects, open-captions are like those familiar English subtitles translating the dialogue of foreign-language films, but they include more information. Captions make visible in text form not only actors' dialogue (as subtitles do) but also convey descriptions of other sounds, such as "clock tolling midnight" or "loud laughing" (as subtitles don't).

Silver said the test marked the first time open-captioning was used in a first-run family movie shown to general audiences. Deaf and HH people yearn to become part of those audiences, to share an experience they are cut off from. Outcome of the test would depend on reaction, if any, to the captions from general audiences. If the showings draw a crowd, the MAC noted, "Universal has indicated that it will continue to show this movie in these theaters in the weeks following."

Past showings of open-captioned films involved a relatively tiny number of donated films and screenings often months after the original release, at unpopular times such as early Saturday morning, and at higher prices. As Silver put it:. "Would you want to wait until four months after Christmas to see a Christmas movie?"

More than 100 of the 125 people who attended the July 20 showing were Deaf or hard-of-hearing. When the lights came on, they wore delighted smiles and conversed animatedly in sign language about their hopes for more of the new experience. Repeat captioned showings of ***A Simple Wish*** were scheduled for July 23.

The only gripe some of the moviegoers had was that they wished the movie had been better, or that a better movie had been chosen as the attraction.

"I have no problem [with the captions]," said local Cineplex Odeon manager **Henry Passman**, adding that there should always be advance public notice for open-captioned screenings. The **Washington Post** noted it in its movie listings and Passman personally announced it onstage.

If anything, as Silver noted, the test teaches us that open-captioned screenings are enthusiastically welcomed by an estimated 22 to 28 million deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the United States, plus countless students just learning to read, immigrants, and others learning English as a second language.

—Adapted from an AP release ➤

✏ For more on the Movie Access Coalition,, see "Passion & Popcorn in Philly: Creative Access celebrates its 5th anniversary," **DEAF LIFE**, July 1997.

ASL FOR EVERYONE

You Can Sign! American Sign Language for Beginners (Volumes 1, 2, and 3) is now available from Sign Enhancers, Inc. Based on the ***Beginning American Sign Language Videocourse***, this 3-videotape set offers 5-1/2 hours of sign-language instruction for children or adult learners. These tapes are designed for private use only. No public-performance rights are included.

You Can Sign! follows a family with two Deaf children, a Deaf father, and a hearing mother through their daily life experiences. The lessons are thematic, with each focused on a specific topic. Once the new signs are introduced, the family uses the vocabulary within the context of a family situation which is makes it entertaining, instructive, and immediately applicable.

With over 22 million Deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the U.S., ASL has become the fourth most-used language in the country.* As of 1996, approximately 22 states had already passed legislation recognizing ASL as a language. Federal mandates over the past 20 years have resulted in many Deaf and hard-of-hearing students being mainstreamed within public schools, and hearing students are affected by their presence. The result is a rapidly increasing interest in ASL.

The frequency and amount of positive exposure to sign language and Deaf people in the media has sparked interest in sign language in the general public. Television programs such as ***Seinfeld***, ***Spin City***, ***Ellen***, and others have featured Deaf actors within primetime programming. Feature films such as ***Jerry McGuire*** and ***Speed 2*** include Deaf characters signing their lines. The ADA has resulted in more and more Deaf people holding prominent and highly visible positions in education, government, and private industry. This dramatically increases the need and desire for hearing people to gain access to Deaf people through signed communication.

You Can Sign! enables parents and siblings to communicate effectively with Deaf family members, employers, and co-workers to establish communication access on the job, churchgoers to connect with Deaf congregants, and people to establish ties with Deaf neighbors. It offers a way to successfully learn ASL, perhaps even leading to a new career as an interpreter, teacher, or counselor.

*There are, however, no "hard statistics" to prove this.—Editors

NEW FACES ON NCI'S BOARD

Thomas E. Wheeler, **John Furia, Jr.**, and **Ken H. Levinson** have joined the Board of Directors of the National Captioning Institute.

➠ Wheeler is President and CEO of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA), a position he has held since 1992. For two decades, he has worked at the forefront of telecommunications policy and technology, founding multiple companies offering cable, wireless, and video communications services, both domestically and internationally.

From 1979 to 1984, Wheeler was President of the National Cable Television Association (NCTA). Previously, he was Vice President for Public Affairs of the Grocery Manufacturers of America, the trade association of the major food and nonfood grocery-product companies.

In 1994, **President Clinton** appointed Wheeler to a 6-year term on the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He is also a director of the Vincent T. Lombardi Foundation, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, the Wireless Telecommunications Foundation, and numerous other business and charitable groups.

He is a graduate of Ohio State University and resides in Washington, D.C. with his wife and two children.

➠ Furia is a well-known writer for screen and television. A past president of the Writers Guild of America and founding Vice President of the Humanitas Prize, he is currently President of the Writers Guild Foundation and Chair of the Writing Division at the renowned University of Southern California School of Cinema-Television. He also serves on the Board of Governors of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

He has written and produced for both the screen and television, in the U.S. and in several countries around the world. He was the showrunner (Executive Producer) on several notable television series, including ***Kung Fu***, ***John O'Hara's Gibbsville***, and ***The Dirty Dozen***. His TV-movies and miniseries include ***We Are the Children*** and ***Hemingway's The Sun Also Rises***.

➠ Levinson, President and Founder of Levinson Consulting Group in Los Angeles, California, is the Executive Director of The Children's Hearing Institute, a nonprofit organization supporting the rehabilitation of children with cochlear implants and also supports medical and implant research.

He currently serves on several other boards, including those of Gallaudet University, Auditory-Verbal International, HEAR NOW, Cancer Support Services, and the House Ear Institute National Council. He is also a past international president of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf.

Levinson received his Master's degree from Columbia University Graduate School of Business. Starting his business career on the auditing staff at Price Waterhouse in New York, Levinson rose to become Manager of the Corporate Audit Department for the Northrop Corporation. A founding partner of Quigley, Gatto, Levinson & Miron, a CPA firm, he was in charge of the not-for-profit sector.

Among his many honors, Levinson has received the California Society of CPAs' Public Service Award and the California Governor's Trophy.

✏ Ken Levinson appeared on our July 1990 cover. For more on Mr. Levinson and CHI, see "Jingle Bells" item below.)

"DUMMY" HOY CAMPAIGN: UPDATE

A rally will be held on Saturday, February 21, 1:00-3:00 p.m., in front of the **USA Today** headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Participants will be there from Gallaudet

University's Student Body Government and **Buff & Blue** staff, Western Maryland College's Deaf Education program, the NAD, AAAD, and, of course, the AAAD Committee for "Dummy" Hoy.

A second rally will be held on Saturday, February 28, 1:00-3:00 p.m., in front of the Office of the Commissioner of Major League Baseball, 350 Park Avenue, New York City. Representatives from the Fiorentino Foundation, Staten Island Club of the Deaf, National Disabilities Center, Empire State Association of the Deaf, and other organizations will be there. So will ***Eyewitness TV News*** and CNN.

Participants want to "raise the consciousness" of the media and baseball fields about the accomplishments of **William Ellsworth "Dummy" Hoy** (1862-1961), who deserves to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Year after year, the Hall of Fame Committee on Baseball Veterans (which handles the voting-in of inductees) has bypassed Hoy in favor of players with weaker records.

The rallies were originally scheduled for March 1 and March 8, but were moved back when the Hoy Committee realized that the Veterans' Committee would be meeting soon after March 1. They want to have maximum impact before another deadline passes.

For more information, contact **Robert D. Traina, Jr.**, who's coordinating the rallies, at ☎(202) 547-1064 (TTY), ❐(202) 547-3284 (FAX), or ❖rtraina531@aol.com (E-mail).

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?

"Dummy" Hoy was an outstanding 19th-century player, a superb outfielder and fine base-stealer. He once threw out three baserunners at home plate in one game, the first of only a tiny handful of players to do so. (The date of that feat was June 19, 1889.) And his statistics are better than those of the recently-inducted Hall of Famer **Phil Rizzuto**. He is also remembered as being the first deaf major-leaguer.

His professional career began in 1886 in Oshkosh, and his major-league career began two years later, ending in 1902. He played his last professional game for Los Angeles in 1903. He played for the Washington Senators, Buffalo Brotherhood, St. Louis Browns, Louisville Colonels, Chicago White Sox, and the Cincinnati Reds. He played on four leagues: National, American, Players', and Pacific Coast. He was much-liked by his hearing teammates. Courteous, gentlemanly, fair-minded, and shrewd, with a wry sense of humor, he earned the respect of opponents, officials, sportswriters, and deaf and hearing fans. He inspired countless deaf youngsters. While he was still active in major-league baseball, some new deaf-school baseball teams called themselves the "Hoys" in his honor. When he made a spectacular play, fans stood and waved their arms and hats wildly, instead of cheering with their voices. His exploits on the field are legendary—the time he caught a fly ball by leaping onto the shaft of a parked buggy, the way umpires would consult him on doubtful plays, knowing that he would give an honest answer, the day he hit an ill-fated fly ball that ended up in a fielder's breast pocket, thus becoming indirectly responsible for a ban on uniform breast pockets that's still in effect. And these stories happen to be true.

More than ten Hall of Famers, including **Honus Wagner**, **Wahoo Sam Crawford**, and **Connie Mack**, played with Hoy on various teams during his major-league career. Several of them said outright that Hoy deserved induction, too. Yet he was, and has continued to be, bypassed.

There is good evidence that Hoy invented the hand signals ("Strike," "Ball," "Out," and "Safe") used today by umpires throughout the world, and that he did so because he, a deaf player, had difficulty "catching" the calls, which were yelled but not signaled. He did this well before the turn of the century, early in his career (probably in 1887, during his stint in Oshkosh), and several contemporary newspaper accounts mention it. We know that Hoy taught his teammates how to fingerspell and sign, and this may be the basis for the elaborate system of "secret" baseball signals also used throughout the world.

Hoy's introduction of the hand signals into the game would have been enough to guarantee him a spot in the Hall of Fame. But Umpire **Bill Klem's** plaque in the Hall of Fame erroneously credits *him* with inventing the hand signals. Klem is supposed to have invented the signals in 1905—well after Hoy had retired from professional baseball!

Klem, who's certainly one of the great umpires and deserving of a spot in the Hall of Fame, may have played an important role in popularizing the signals. But surely Hoy deserves credit for his innovation. Without those signs, baseball just wouldn't be as colorful and exciting!

A NEW CHAMPION

Lindy Decker, a deaf lefthanded bowler from York, Pennsylvania, made Deaf-sports history when she scored two perfect games of 300. Decker, the 1991 AAAD and U.S. Olympic Committee Deaf Athlete of the Year, rolled her first 300 in a league on October 10, 1989, when she was 19, and her second on January 21, 1993, with a York County women's and deaf women's record 790 series (300-235-255).

Since then, many others have tried to match her score. A handful came close, but failed.

On November 8, 1997, **Wendy Jaramillo**, 30, a 172-average righthander from Riverside, California, made history at Del Rio Lanes in Downey, California, following games of 190-182 for 672 plus her 90 handicap to lead the qualifying round of the West Coast Deaf Bowlers Association tournament with a plus 162. In the title finals, Jaramillo won the tournament. She is the second deaf woman in the world, and the first deaf woman on the West Coast, to roll a 300.

Last July, Jaramillo did very well in the National Deaf Women's tournament in San Diego, collecting over $1,600 in prizes. According to **Connie Marchione's** report in the **Southern California Deaf Bowling News**, "she took the doubles and singles titles, placed second in all events, third in the National Deaf Queens, and 11th in the World Deaf

Championship."

The West Coast tourney "drew a record 63 entries." In the finals, the top-seeded Jaramillo defeated **LeRoy MacMonagle**, becoming the second woman to win the West Coast Deaf Bowlers title. The first WCDB champion, **Aurora Doming**, lost to MacMonagle I the second round. Jaramillo also won a total of $630 plus the sidepot for her 300 game, and chose a gold ring to commemorate her feat.

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GREENWICH MAGIC TIME

The Society of Deaf Magicians of Great Britain will host the 7th World Deaf Magicians Festival in Greenwich, England, during the week of May 11-18, in cooperation with the Society of World Deaf Magicians.

Greenwich is about 7 miles east of Central London. There are many grand places to visit in London itself: the Houses of Parliament and the famed Clock Tower (which houses Big Ben, the great bell cast at Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which is where our own Liberty Bell was cast), Downing Street, Westminster Abbey, Trafalagar Square, the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, Southwark Cathedral, the New Globe Theatre . . .

Some of the world's best museums are in London. If you think museums are boring, you'll be surprised by what you can find. There's something for every field of interest. There's the Museum of London, one of the best city museums anywhere, with stunning shows ("The Great Fire") and well-designed displays; the Victoria and Albert Museum, famed for its collection of decorative objects, costumes, exotic furniture, and arts and crafts of all kinds; and the British Museum, which houses the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon. And if you're interested in antique toys and how children lived centuries ago, there's the Bethnall Green Museum of Childhood. Interested in stamps? Try the National Postal Museum. Fascinated by war history? The Imperial War Museum is for you. Crazy about antique cars, buses, and trains? Take in the National Transport Museum.

Want to see art masterpieces and great historical characters up close? Visit the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery near Trafalgar Square. The Tate Gallery contains a treasury of British art, ranging from Pre-Raphaelites to Beatrix Potter's original watercolors for her "Peter Rabbit" series. Many of these museums have giftshops.

Speaking of shopping, London offers some of the best shops in the world. Liberty of London, Bond Street and New Bond Street, the Burlington Arcade, the Knightsbridge and Kensington areas, Harrod's, Burberry's, Peter Jones, Fortnum & Mason, Marks & Spencer . . .

Love gardens? London has some of the loveliest rose/botanic gardens anywhere. Well, you get the picture.

London's public transportation is excellent. There's London Transport (known as the "tube" . . . but don't call it the "subway" because "subway" in British English means an underground passageway, not a train!) There's BritRail, the countrywide train system, too. And the famous double-decker red buses. London is a pleasure to tour on foot. Visit Covent Garden (the former flower market, now a chic shopping area, fun to stroll around even if you don't buy anything), the City of London (the financial district), Chelsea (very chic and very historic), SoHo and Piccadilly Circus (near the theater district), and Thameside (which has some sites familiar to Dickens). If you want to travel in luxury, taxicabs are expensive . . . but roomy!

Greenwich houses the National Maritime Museum and the former Royal Observatory. The Greenwich meridian is still the location for 0° longitude and the basis for the world's standard time-zone system. "Universal Time" used to be known as "Greenwich Mean Time." The abbreviation "GMT" is still used for navigational purposes.

Official Festival Headquarters are at the Clarendon Hotel, situated on the edge of Blackheath Heath close to the village. The Blackheath Railway Station is in the center of the village, which contains charming shops and restaurants.

In collaboration with the Society of World Deaf Magicians, the Festival, which meets every two years, presents a great opportunity for amateur and professional deaf magicians from all parts of the world to exchange ideas, share experiences, and compete in a variety of performance contests. Competitions are in the following categories: stage magic, close-up magic (micro-magic), comedy magic, and illusion magic.

There will be three evening magic shows, including competitions. On Tuesday morning (May 12), a festival procession of flagbearers representing different countries will march from the Clarendon through Royal Greenwich Park. Wednesday morning (May 13) is a special "magic day" for deaf children to watch a variety of deaf musicians. A Gala Night Dance, Dinner, and Show will be held on Saturday evening, May 16, with the magician-finalists and awards ceremony presented the eminent magician-judges. Black-tie attire is optional. On the 17th, the farewell party will be held at the Trafalgar Tavern on the River Thames quayside with a buffet-style dinner.

For details on accommodations and fees, tourists should contact: Eurolondon International Travel, c/o World Deaf Magicians Festival, 34 Blackheath Village, London SE3-9BY; ❒44-0181-318-6755 (FAX). For information on Festival-show and Big Gala Night Show tickets, contact **Victor Shine**, Organizer, 34 Kashmir Road, Charlton, London SE7-8QL, England; ❒44-0181-856-9661 (FAX).

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OTITIS MEDIA: THE ACHE, THE AGONY, THE TREATMENT

Otitis media (infection of the middle ear) strikes young children most commonly in the winter and early spring months. Approximately one-third of all children have more than three ear infections during the first three years of life. This results in more than 30 million doctor visits per year.

Otitis media is also the most common cause of hearing loss in children.

Many parents are not aware of all the symptoms of this pediatric medical disorder or how middle-ear infections can cause chronic or permanent hearing problems in children, adolescents, and adults. Now, a new patient information leaflet, “Doctor, why does my child’s ear ache?” is being offered free by the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS). Otolaryngologists (ear, nose, and throat specialists) study, diagnose, and treat disorders of the ear and its related structures.

“Even when the acute signs of an ear infection have passed, impaired ventilation through a poorly functioning Eustachian tube can cause a chronic condition lasting weeks, months or years,” says **Nancy Sculerati**, MD, a pediatric otolaryngologist at the New York University School of Medicine. “Undiagnosed otitis media is the most common cause of mild hearing loss in school-age children. This new patient-information leaflet assists parents in making informed decisions regarding when their child, suffering from otitis media, needs to be examined by a medical specialist in ear and hearing disorders.”

Included within the leaflet is a description of otitis media, its causes, symptoms, and possible treatments, all invaluable information to parents with young children. You can obtain a free copy of “Doctor, why does my child’s ear ache?” by sending a self-addressed, stamped, business-size (#10) envelope to Otitis Media c/o American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, One Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3357.

Otitis Media: Q & A

What is *otitis media*? Inflammation of the middle ear.

What causes *otitis media*? It’s a swelling of the middle ear caused by a blockage of the ear’s Eustachian tube during a cold, allergy, or upper respiratory infection. The presence of bacteria or viruses lead to the buildup of fluid (often pus and mucus) behind the eardrum. This condition can occur in one or both ears.

What is the “middle ear”? The ear consists of the *outer ear*, *middle ear*, and *inner ear*. The outer ear (*pinna*) collects sounds. The middle ear is separated from the outer ear by the paper-thin eardrum. Attached to the eardrum are three tiny ear bones, the *stapes*, *malleus*, and *incus* (called “stirrup,” “hammer,” and “anvil” because of their shapes). When sound waves strike the eardrum, it vibrates and sets the bones in motion, which transmits sounds to the inner ear. There, the vibrations are converted to electrical signals sent to the brain.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

JERICHO INDIVIDUAL COMPENSATION (JIC) PROGRAM

Compensation Consultant

The Jericho Individual Compensation (JIC) Program is a program of the Ministry of Attorney General in British Columbia that provides compensation to former students of Jericho Hill School (JHS) who were sexually abused in connection with their attendance at JHS.

The program is looking for a **contract Compensation Consultant** to work with Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing and Blind claimants. The Compensation Consultant will assist claimants to prepare their claims for the Compensation Panel.

Contract duration: April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999

Remuneration: negotiable

Qualifications:
- fluent in ASL and other modes of communication used by Deaf and Deaf-Blind individuals;
- knowledgeable about Deaf culture;
- considerable knowledge and experience in the area of sexual abuse;
- excellent interviewing and report writing skills;
- highly organized team player with experience in a multi-disciplinary setting.

All interested individuals will be required to complete a Background Assessment Questionnaire. To obtain your questionnaire or for more information, please contact Lucille Laurin at the following numbers:

TTY: 660-0319 or 1-888-711-2211 **V:** 660-0300 or 1-888-311-2211 **FAX:** 1-604-660-0315

The closing date for applications is February 15, 1998.

When inflammation occurs in the middle ear, the three tiny bones cannot move freely. Therefore, hearing loss occurs.

Who suffers from *otitis media*? This condition is the most frequent diagnosis recorded by doctors who visit children for illness. Otitis media is also the most common cause of hearing loss in children. Some adults are occasionally affected; the conditions occurs most frequently in the winter and early spring.

How serious is *otitis media*? If untreated, acute or serious otitis media can cause permanent or chronic hearing loss in children. Hearing loss in children can impair learning capacity and even delay speech development.

What are the symptoms of *otitis media*? In toddlers, look for pulling and scratching of the ear, crying and irritability, fever, vomiting, and ear drainage. For young children, adolescents, and adults, the symptoms are an earache, feeling of fullness or pressure, hearing problems, dizziness or loss of balance, nausea, ear drainage, or a fever.

What examination is required for *otitis media*? The first step of an examination for *otitis media* will involve the doctor using an instrument called an otoscope to check for redness in the ear and/or fluid behind the eardrum. Gentle air pressure will be applied to the eardrum to see if it moves.

Are other tests given? The doctor may use an audiogram to determine if hearing loss has occurred. A tympanogram is often used to measure air pressure in the middle ear to see how well the Eustachian tube is working.

What is the treatment for *otitis media*? Antibiotics are often prescribed to fight the infection. For more severe cases, a myringotomy, a small incision into the eardrum to facilitate drainage, is called for. For the most chronic cases, a ventilation tube is placed in the incision for up to several months. The tube prevents fluid build-up, improves hearing, and leads to a decrease in ear infections.

Are there other causes of *otitis media*? *Otitis media* may recur as a result of chronically infected tonsils and adenoids. Removal of both may be necessary. Allergies may also be a cause for this disorder.

The FAS link: Last September, a scientific study, "High Incidence of Hearing Loss and Middle Ear Disease Found Among Children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome," was presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery in San Francisco. The study revealed that children with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) have a higher incidence of sensorineural hearing loss (damage to the sensory nerve of hearing) and middle-ear disease. New medical research studies concerning otitis media and children's hearing disorders will be presented at the Academy's Annual Meeting to be held in San Antonio, September 13-16. Contact **Ken Satterfeld** at ☎(703) 519-1563 (Voice) for further information.

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JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS . . . WE'RE BOOSTING IMPLANTS FOR KIDS!

✏ **Editors' note:** The following E-mailed news release was forwarded to us by Raymond Luczak, who comments, "Oh, my God! The music industry's helping the cochlear implant movement!"

We're publishing the release just as we received it. We want our readers to be aware of what's going on.

Sony Christmas Album to Help Raise Funds for Deaf Children

NEW YORK—(BUSINESS WIRE)—Dec. 17, 1997—The Children's Hearing Institute in New York City will benefit from a new Christmas album from Sony Music featuring some of the biggest names in Rock, Pop, and Country music.

The CD, entitled *Sounds of the Season*, features premier Sony artists such as Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Reba McEntire, Tony Bennett, Kenny Loggins, Shawn Colvin, and Vince Gill, each singing a holiday favorite. All profits from the sale of the album will benefit The Children's Hearing Institute.

The Children's Hearing Institute (CHI) supports a very unique program, the Cochlear Implant Center at Manhattan Eye Ear & Throat Hospital, providing the gift of sound to deaf children and adults. Cochlear implants, surgically placed behind the ear, deliver electrical impulses to stimulate the hearing nerve, restoring sound to the user.

Mr. Ken H. Levinson, executive director of CHI, said, "This is, indeed, a best case of the industry giving back to a cause that is dear to all people involved in music. We are deeply gratified that so many recording artists and Sony Music have come together to give their generous support to The Children's Hearing Institute because of the wonderful work being done here."

CHI is the only organization in the U.S. to take a "whole child" approach to hearing restoration through cochlear implants. Recognizing the importance of educating those who, in turn, are responsible for teaching newly-hearing mainstreamed children, CHI has on-staff educators who work hand-in-hand with parents, schools and teachers to ensure the most successful outcome for children. Educators serve on each evaluation and post-implantation team along with speech and language specialists, the medical director, audiologists, and other specialists.

Arthur Indursky, a managing partner in the law firm of Grubman, Indursky & Schindler, served as the executive producer of *Sounds of the Season*. He will be the honoree at The Children's Hearing Institute's 1998 Gala Dinner Dance, to be held on Thursday evening, March 5, 1998, at The Pierre Hotel in New York City.

Released in October, *Sounds of the Season* is a perfect holiday gift or stocking stuffer for Holiday music lovers—and a fantastic way to support a deserving organization.

The Cochlear Implant Center is also actively engaged in research, analyzing technology developments in cochlear implant science, as well as underlying educational, speech and language, and psychological factors. It is this ability to maintain cutting edge knowledge of the cochlear implant field that enables CHI staff to provide optimum services to clients.

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LOW-COST AURAL REHAB

Nancy Murray, Ph.D., Director of Research at Central Institute for the Deaf, has written a book, **Communication Training for Older Teenagers and Adults**, that solves both clinical and cost problems in providing follow-up and support services to hearing-aid users.

Communication Training, recently published by Pro•Ed of Austin, Texas, is a 265-page spiral-bound, paperback designed for one-to-one use by a patient and a clinician, or a family member. A companion publication to Murray's earlier book, **Communication Training for Hearing-Impaired Children and Teenagers**, it contains numerous exercises designed to improve the patient's communication skills.

Publication of the book was supported in part by a research grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Both books, Murray said, evolved from a growing awareness among audiology professionals that aural rehabilitation can be labor-intensive, expensive, and time-consuming. Because few clinics have a large enough staff or the financial resources to provide traditional services, a clinically effective but low-cost alternative was needed.

Murray found the answer to those problems by adapting material from laser-discs used in aural rehabilitation and translating it into print form. This allows the clinician or family member to access and present audio-visual speech materials rapidly and in any sequence.

Murray joined CID in 1995 as a senior research scientist and was named to her present position last November. Previously, she served as interim director of research for one year, and also has served as chairperson of CID's Institutional Review Board.

She has worked on grant projects of various sizes from different sources, including work as an investigator or project director for several multi-million-dollar NIH grants. Currently, she is co-investigator with fellow CID senior scientist **Ann E. Geers**, Ph.D., on an NIH study, "Aural Rehabilitation and Cochlear Implant Use." She also is co-project director of "The Iowa Cochlear Implant Project." She is chief editor of **The Volta Review**, the research journal of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, and is the newly elected president of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology.

She was graduated *magna cum laude*° from Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Deaf Education. She holds a doctorate in Speech and Hearing Science from the University of Iowa, where she also earned a Master's degree in Audiology.

magna cum laude: with high honors (Latin, "with great praise").

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RISKY BUSINESS?

A study published on December 24, 1997, has found that workers who are blind, deaf, or have other disabilities are 36% more likely to be injured on the job than their able-bodied co-workers. Researchers from the University of Iowa College of Medicine found that deaf employees run twice the risk of a workplace injury, while the blind are three times more likely to get hurt. Upper-extremity disabilities increased the risk of an on-the-job injury 46%, and arthritis raised it 34%.

The study, published in the **Journal of the American Medical Association**, looked at everyone from laborers and assemblers to managers and executives. It was based on interviews with 459,827 workers, aged 18 to 65, who participated in the National Health Interview Survey from 1985 to 1994.

The researchers did say, "These data do not indicate that workers with disabilities should be excluded from the work force. "However, physicians treating workers with disabilities should communicate these potential risks and should help their employers to develop workplace accommodations to minimize risks to workers."

"The need for accommodations has become especially important because of growing numbers of aging baby-boomers and the passage in 1991 of the Americans With Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination against the disabled," said Craig Zwerling, the study's lead researcher and a professor of preventive medicine and environmental health.

—Adapted from an AP release

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THE TURKEYS & THE EAGLES

Disability Rights Advocates, a major national disability-law center based in California, bestowed° its annual Turkey and Eagle Awards on December 17. DRA's Turkey Awards are given to businesses and persons who, like their fowl-feathered friends, have demonstrated mean-spiritedness and hostility toward men, women, and children with disabilities. Eagle

Awards are presented to those who have actively demonstrated fairness and sensitivity toward the aspirations and needs of people with disabilities.

DRA Executive Director **Larry Paradis**, a wheelchair user, said: "Sadly, the list of Turkeys is a long one. We have selected a few particularly bird-brained examples of prejudice against people with disabilities and violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act." (The ADA was passed by Congress and signed into law by **President Bush** in July 1990.)

The first awardee, The Hertz Corporation, receives a Triple Turkey award for three blatant° acts of disregard for the needs of people with disabilities:

1) The first Turkey is for firing two mentally-retarded workers because Hertz had a quarrel with their *job coaches.* (The coaches were caught kissing in a car at the jobsite when they should have been assisting their disabled clients in getting adjusted to their new jobs.) The second Turkey is for Hertz's second-class service to customers who need cars with hand-controls. And the third Turkey goes to Hertz for its medical-insurance plan, which violates the ADA by placing a cap of $150 on benefits for hearing aids. (The cost of a standard hearing aid is $5,000.)

The second Turkey Award goes to Greyhound Lines, Inc., for using all of its political power to keep from having to purchase new buses equipped with wheelchair lifts.

The third Turkey Award goes to **Jon Westling**, President of Boston University, for referring to the increase in the number of students with learning disabilities attending colleges and universities as a "genetic catastrophe" and his inventing a (strictly fictional) learning-disabled student, "Somnolent° Samantha," whom he described in detail in speeches to the Heritage Foundation and intentionally to "support" his ignorant belief that students who claim learning disabilities are frauds and fakers.

Lois Smiley, DRA Board Member, who is deaf, comments: "Finding businesses deserving of the Eagle Awards can sometimes be as rare as the eagle itself. This endangered species deserves nurturing and recognition."

The first Eagle Award goes to Nordstrom's Department Stores, headquartered in Seattle, Washington, for their commitment to hiring people with disabilities to work in their stores. Nordstrom's uses fashion models with disabilities for their mail-order catalogues. They also provide disability-awareness training for all of their non-disabled employees.

The second Eagle Award goes to Marriott International, Inc., headquartered in Maryland, for putting emphasis on abilities, rather than disabilities. Approximately 6% of Marriott's associates are people with disabilities who work in a variety of positions at all levels of the company. Marriott's Equal Opportunity Department developed an ADA task force that provides comprehensive "Breaking Down Barriers" training to employees at all levels. In addition, the Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities, funded partially by the Marriott family, has set up a program called "Bridges from School to Work" which helps high-school seniors with disabilities find jobs with over 900 different employers in 7 major American cities (Chicago; Atlanta; San Francisco; Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles; Fairfax, Virginia; and Rockville, Maryland).

The third Eagle Award goes to Noah's Bagels, headquartered in California, for its pro-active stance toward hiring people with disabilities and for providing managers of each store with extensive resources of vocational centers for people with disabilities.

The final Eagle Award goes to ***NBC Dateline*** for its groundbreaking exposé of rampant° discrimination against disabled people in employment and housing. One example: The ***Dateline*** reporter, **John Hockenberry**, interviewed a job applicant in a wheelchair after he and a non-disabled "applicant" went on the same day, 15 minutes apart, to apply for a job at Crate & Barrel (a runner-up for the Turkey Award). On camera, the Crate & Barrel staffer invited the non-disabled applicant to sign up for an interview immediately after she had told the disabled applicant that there were no jobs available.

Liane Yasumoto, DRA Board member and a wheelchair user, said: "The Turkey and Eagle awards represent the spectrum of responses to the aspirations of people with disabilities. We want what everyone else wants: a job, an education, and a chance to participate in society in all of its aspects. It is important that we give recognition to those companies that have enlightened responses that reflect the spirit of this season. It is equally important that we call public attention to those who are small-minded and ignorant."

Q: What are the criteria for selection of Turkeys and Eagles?

A: The three criteria for award choices are degree of impact, consistency, and knowledge of the concerns of people with disabilities.

1. Impact: The extent to which the awardees' actions advance or set back the progress of people with disabilities.
2. Consistency: The extent to which the organization or person has a long-term commitment to or practice of including or excluding people with disabilities in employment, education, or other life activities.
3. Knowledge: The degree to which the actions of the award recipient are based on fact and experience or on misguided myths and stereotypes.

Q: What does DRA hope to accomplish by giving these awards?

A: DRA gives annual Eagle Awards to spotlight and reward organizations and individuals who actively advance the rights of people with disabilities, and uses them as models of corporate sensitivity and commitment.

The Turkey Awards are designed to make the public aware of people and entities that are particularly callous and regressive in their actions toward men, women, and children with disabilities. The Turkey Awards are given to those who have shown such deep-rooted insensitivity that it has set back the progress made by people with disabilities in the last 30 years.

✏ Thanks to Paulette R. Caswell for forwarding this.

bestowed: gave out; presented; announced.

blatant: obvious; clear; not hidden; "out in the open."

somnolent: sleepy. Westling's "Samantha" kept falling asleep in class.

rampant: out of control, unrestrained; widespread. Literally, "raging."

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A DASH OF HOPE, A PILE OF HARD WORK

On December 17, the Board of Directors of the Christopher Reeve Foundation (CRF) announced that $100,000 in grant money would be shared by eight nonprofit organizations that address quality-of-life issues for people with disabilities. The grants are designed to improve opportunities, access, and day-to-day quality of life for families and persons living with disabilities.

"As scientists develop a cure for spinal-cord injuries, a quarter-of-a-million Americans need assistance with day-to-day challenges from funding equipment and therapy, to emotional support," said Dana Reeve, the Foundation's vice president. "These eight organizations are making a tremendous difference in the lives of people with disabilities and their families."

People with spinal-cord injury paralysis live an average of 40 years after they're injured, strapping them with extraordinarily high medical and living expenses. Thanks to support of these eight organizations, the lives of the disabled and their families are being eased and in many cases enhanced.

"This grant will help us continue our efforts to bring millions of people with disabilities more fully into the mainstream of life," said Alan Reich, president of the National Organization on Disability, which received one of the $25,000 grants from CRF.

This year's three $25,000 grants were awarded to the National Organization on Disability, the National Spinal Cord Injury Association, and World T.E.A.M.'s Vietnam Challenge. An additional five $5,000 grants are going to the Children Affected by Armed Conflict Program, the National Family Caregivers Association, the New York Therapeutic Riding Center, Pegasus Therapeutic Riding, and Shake-A-Leg.

Christopher Reeve, who has always loved horses and received his spinal-cord injury in a horseriding accident in 1994, proudly notes that two of the organizations enlist horses and therapeutic horseback riding in the rehabilitation of children and adults with a wide range of disabilities. "Whether it is providing emotional support or rehabilitation, the needs of the disabled are extensive. Through the Christopher Reeve Foundation, we will support recipients like these that are providing critical services for those living with disabilities," he said.

Founded in 1996, the mission of the Christopher Reeve Foundation's (CRF) is to raise funds for medical research leading to the effective treatment and, ultimately, a cure for spinal-cord-injury paralysis. CRF also provides grants to local organizations, which focus on the quality of life for the disabled, as well as serves as a source of information and a voice for all disabled people.

$25,000 Grants

National Organization or' Disability promotes the full and equal participation of America's 49 million people with disabilities in all aspects of life. N.O.D. promotes expanding opportunities available to all people with disabilities, regardless of age or disability issue.

National Spinal Cord Injury Association helps individuals with spinal-cord injuries from the time of their injury throughout their lives. NSCIA serves as a resource regarding issues of insurance, life-care planning, job training and employment, rehab facilities, durable medical equipment, vehicle modification, physicians, and more. These services enable people with spinal-cord injury to make choices and take actions to achieve their highest level of independence and personal fulfillment.

World T.E.A.M.'s Vietnam Challenge is raising awareness of the capabilities of persons with disabilities. This ambitious cycling challenge, which began this January, took a group of U.S. veterans and supporters back to Vietnam, joining them with Vietnamese comrades, and traveling 1,200 rigorous miles from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

$5,000 Grants

Children Affected by Armed Conflict Program of the International Rescue Committee serves children who suffer from, or have fled, armed conflict. The Program's "Technical Support Unit" strives to develop standards, evaluate projects, document successes, and design new projects related to rehabilitation, disabilities and handicaps, among others.

National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA) serves families and friends who act as caregivers to loved ones. Through newsletters, mailings, the "Caregiver to Caregiver Support Network," speaker's bureaus, and raising public awareness, NFCA supports caregivers.

New York Therapeutic Riding Center will fill the void for New Yorker's seeking therapeutic treatment through horseback riding. The facility will serve children and adults with disabilities living in the five boroughs of New York City.

Pegasus Therapeutic Riding provides therapeutic benefits associated with horseback riding and horse-related activities those with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities at their stables in Connecticut and New York.

Shake-A-Leg, of Newport, Rhode Island, serves victims of physical trauma, with an emphasis placed on spinal-cord impairments, through multi-faceted therapy programs that focus on improving the mind, body, and spirit.

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NEW ON THE 'NET

🌐 **Consumer savvy online:** The first Internet site to provide "one-stop" access to Federal consumer information resources is ready for visitors. The new Website, **U.S. Consumer Gateway**, located at ✱www.**consumer.gov**, offers information by subject, rather than by federal agency.

Each of the site's 10 major categories, including *Food*, *Health*, *Your Money*, *Product Safety*, and *Transportation*, has its own subject areas, allowing consumers to locate and link to appropriate and late-breaking information quickly and easily. Topics are cross-linked to encourage and enhance access.

Among the site features are **Scam Alert!**, which provides information about current law enforcement efforts and tips on how to recognize—and avoid—fraudulent and deceptive practices in the marketplace, and **Of Special Interest**, timely and new information on a variety of topics.

The web site is a cooperative effort among Federal agencies. Charter partners include the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The initiative to develop the U.S. Consumer Gateway at ✱consumer.gov was led by the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. As the "host" agency, the FTC maintains the site server and provides all technical support.

🌐 **Navigating the techno-career maze:** Peterson's Magazine Group (PMG) has its finger on the pulse of the ever-evolving job market for engineering and computer-science students and professionals through its career print magazines. Now, that expertise is online with **✱CareerTech.com**, a recently launched Webzine published by PMG and Peterson's Interactive Media. "We created a cutting-edge Webzine that meets the career needs of our target audience—today's most techno-savvy students. Our strength is that we provide current, focused information about emerging trends in the workplace for computer and engineering majors," said Charlotte Thomas, editor-in-chief of this new Webzine.

Recent CareerTech.com features include *Best Job Bets for '98, Electronic Résumé Turn Ons/Turn Offs*, and *Teaming Up in Silicon Valley*. Articles provide details and stories are posted quickly, keeping students abreast of the very latest news and trends. Thomas reports that colleges and universities across the United States are creating links from their Websites to *CareerTech*.com to give their students easy access to the Webzine.

CareerTech.com sections include:

- **Cool Careers**—experienced engineers talk about their jobs and what students can expect
- Hot Industries—industry heavyweights offer their take on emerging technologies and new developments and trends that will affect entry-level recruitment. *Coming up: With the creation of the Robo-soldier, information management is taking a frontline position in the defense industry.*
- **Talking Heads**—engineering deans and department heads discuss key topics that will affect departmental graduates
- **Now Hiring**—offers readers the opportunity to link to employers' sites as well as post résumés
- **Shop Talk**—young engineers share insights and offer advice on the transformation from student to working professional Job FAQs—topics discussed by corporate human-resource personnel

All items are and will continue to be written exclusively for the Webzine. The opening page of CareerTech.com is alive with color and movement—animated banners, eye-catching graphics, and Java-generated ticker-type displays. Scrolling diversity topics include career issues for minorities and women.

Articles for computer and engineering majors with disabilities, for first- and second-year engineering majors, and high-school students are planned.

Background: Peterson's publishes a well-known series of annual guides to graduate and professional programs, colleges and universities, private schools, summer programs, financial aid, and international study, a full line of books and software offering career guidance and information for adult learners.

Its Website at ✱petersons.com is the only comprehensive, and most heavily traveled, education resource on the Internet. The site carries all of Peterson's fully searchable major databases and includes financial-aid sources, test-prep help, job postings, direct inquiry and application features, and specially created Virtual Campuses for every accredited academic institution and summer program in the U.S. and Canada that offers in-depth narratives, announcements, and multimedia features.

Peterson's Magazine Group publishes 7 discipline-specific print magazines: **Graduating Engineer and Computer Careers, Computer & Engineering Horizons, MS/PhD—The Career Directory for Advanced Degree Engineers and Scientists, Journal of the National Technical Association, SWE—Magazine of the Society of Women's Engineers, Minority MBA**, and **Minority Nurse**.

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WHAT'S DOING IN LOS ANGELES

Previews

February 8

➻ CalArts African Ensemble performs, 3-4:30 p.m., at the Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 E. 107th St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 847-4646. Free.

➻ *Sunday Open Sunday*, the free family-art-workshop series, presents "A Homemade Symphony" with musician/artist Enzo Fina. Theme of series: "Recycled and Environmental Art with Love." 2-4 p.m., William Mead Homes, 1300 N. Cardinal Street (two blocks east of N. Main Street), downtown Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474. This workshop is taught in Spanish and English.

February 10

➻ *Children's Art from Zimbabwe,* an exhibition in celebration of African American Heritage Month, presented by the International Child Art Collection, opens at the Children's Gallery at the Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. Reception: February 14, 2-5 p.m. Sponsored by Friends of the Junior Arts Center. ☎(213) 485-4474. (Through March 27.)

February 11

➻ *Trash,* an exhibition of work that takes debris mental or material or both—as a place from which to start and plays with ideas of relative value; the work functions as a series of moving targets that skitter between illegibility and recognition, authenticity and mockery, critique and complicity, high art and unreconstructed kitsch. Artists are: Susan Choi, Cirilo Domine, Sam Durant, Tammy Fites, Simon Leung, Margaret Morgan, Soraya Muhlert, John Outterbridge, M.A. Peers, and Anne Walsh. Guest curator is Catherine Lord. Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. Reception: February 14, 2-5 p.m. ☎(213) 485-4581. (Through April 5.)

➻ *Nancy Kyes: Extraneous Matters,* a solo exhibition featuring one monumental work entitled "Plow: The Border Between Two Orders," an 8-feet-high cyclone of amassed clutter rising from a single steel plow-blade, and 7 works that make up the artist's *Chakra Series.* Curator: Noel Korten. Junior Arts Center Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. Reception: February 14, 2-5 p.m. ☎(213) 485-4581. (Through April 5.)

February 14

➻ *Children's Art from Zimbabwe,* reception, *2-5* p.m., Children's Gallery at the Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4474. (Exhibition runs through March 27.)

➻ *Trash,* reception, *2-5* p.m., Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4581. (Exhibition runs through April 5.)

➻ *Nancy Kyes: Extraneous Matters,* reception: 2-5 p.m., Junior Arts Center Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4581. (Exhibition runs through April 5.)

February 15

➻ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Willie's World" with poet/storyteller Willie Sims. 2-4 p.m., Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 E. 107th St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

February 16

➻ The Synthaxis Theatre Company presents a reading of ***Mickey*** by Mary Mann. The play tells a story of vaudeville. Lankershim Arts Center, 5108 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood. For performance time and further information, call Estelle Busch at ☎(818) 752-2263.

February 20

➻ *Conversations with the Artists*, in conjunction with the exhibition *Trash.* 7 p.m., Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. Nominal admission fee for adults; free to children. ☎(213) 485-4581.

February 22

➻ *Gloria Bohanon,* an exhibition of painting and collage, opens with a reception, 2-5 p.m. Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 E. 107th St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 847-4646. (Through April 5.)

➻ "Sundays Only in NoHo," dance concert presented by The Martin Dancers. 3-5 p.m., Lankershim Arts Center, 5108 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood. ☎(818) 752-2616.

➻ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Willie's World" with poet/storyteller Willie Sims, 2-4 p.m. Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 E. 107th St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

➻ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "African Wrap Dolls" with artist Angela Briggs. 2-4 p.m., Pueblo Del Rio Social Center, 1801 E. 53rd St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

➻ ***A Woman's Place***, a play by Estelle Busch and Alice Josephs, opens. Presented by the Synthaxis Theatre Company. Lankershim Arts Center, 5108 Lankershim B1., North Hollywood. For performance time, reservations and further information, call Estelle Busch at ☎(818) 752-2263.

February 27

➻ *Writer's Corner—Spoken Word*, 7 p.m., William Grant Still Arts Center, 2520 S. West View St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 734-1164.

➻ *Night Readings*, a series of readings by poets and writers, presents poet Meri Dan Quah, 7 p.m. Other poets to be announced. Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. Nominal admission fee for adults; free to children. For further information, call ☎(213) 485-4581.

March 1

➻ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!" with artist/paper-maker Peggy Hasegawa. 2-4 p.m., Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4474.

March 6

➻ *Conversations with the Artists*, in conjunction with the exhibition *Trash.* 7 p.m., Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. Nominal admission fee for adults; free to children. ☎(213) 485-4581.

March 7

➻ *American Institute of Architecture Student Design Competition,* Hollyhock House, Barnsdall Art Park. Exhibition is open only during scheduled tours of Hollyhock House (Wednesday to Sunday, 12 noon, 1, 2 and 3 p.m.) ☎(213) 913-4157. (Through March 22.)

March 8

➻ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Wearable Art and Ornamental Decorative Objects" with artist/silversmith Eva P. Nathanson. 2-4 p.m. Barrington Recreation Center, 333 S.

Barrington, West Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

March 15

➻ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Hats of Love" with painter/neon artist Candice Gawne. 2-4 p.m. Rancho San Pedro Recreation Center field, across from 113 S. Center St., San Pedro. ☎(213) 485-4474.

March 20

➻ *Conversation with the Artist*, in conjunction with the exhibition *Nancy Kyes: Extraneous Matters.* 7 p.m., Junior Arts Center Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4581. Free.

March 27

➻ *Night Readings*, a series of readings by poets and writers, presents "New Fiction and Poetry/Los Angeles Local/National Writers Union" with Gary Phillips, John Rechy, Carol Schwalberg, Julia Stein and Cecilia Woloch. 7 p.m., Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. Nominal admission fee for adults; free to children. ☎(213) 485-4581.

➻ *Writer's Corner—Spoken Word*, 7 p.m., William Grant Still Arts Center, 2520 S. West View St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 734-1164.

BITS & PIECES

☞ **Starting from scratch:** The Deaf Adults Education Access Program (DAEAP) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1996 to serve the needs of Chicago's Deaf immigrants. Its main goal is to improve students' communication skills. DAEAP staff members also make referrals to social-service agencies and appropriate resources and encourage students to develop opportunities for socialization and leadership.

On January 17, a new session of classes in ASL, Basic Written English, and Citizenship preparation began for Deaf adults whose native language is not English. (Student assessment and registration took place during the first class.) The classes, offered by DAEAP, meet on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Chicago Club of the Deaf, 4221 West Irving Park Road, Chicago. All teachers are Deaf. All classes are free of charge, and Deaf immigrants of all backgrounds are welcome. Child-care services are provided.

For information on upcoming classes, contact **Maureen Philbin** at ☎(312) 802-3566 (TTY/Voice) or **Bob Paul** at ☎(847) 925-6602 (TTY); ❐(847) 295-3288 (FAX).

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Poems & Verse

DEAF, BE NOT PROUD

(A Sonnet)

Deaf, be not overly proud of your state
making of your hearing-er friends a foe
any of whom might join, soon or late,
your silent circle as member *nouveau*.

And to you who have two, borrow a *third* ear
to listen for language beyond regular reach
while for further sureness treat a visual peer
with signals stronger, more candid than speech.

So practice you, both, the power of patience
aware of yourselves as mirrored replications
if deaf: willing to venture with your voice
if hearing: to employ non-verbals as choice
whichever ear-condition Nature decrees
whatever be your level of English-ease.

Dialog Minus One

If a forest-tree falling in a vacuum
beyond reach of ear-thly record
can be argued to crash there unheard
then I ask: Regardless of vigor or volume
does mouth-calling wildly word after word
at those among us we know are deaf-ear'd
sending not even a signal to 'em—
does such verbal violence
bruit enemy of silence
(we lacking the wonder-waters of Lourdes)
deserve the linguistic label of "words"?

—Salvatore J. Parlato
Rochester, New York

✏ Sal Parlato, Jr. is a former teacher of English as a Second Language, poet, and author. Several of his poems and humorous verse have appeared in **DEAF LIFE**. We'll soon be publishing his informal review of Robert F. Panara's **On His Deafness and Other Melodies Unheard**.

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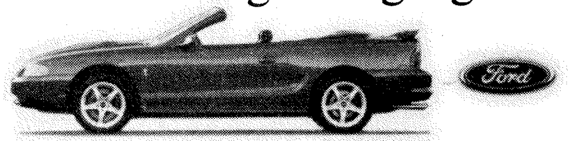

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N E W S !

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We want news—whatever you think may be of national interest. Deaf award-winners, sportspeople, executives, artists. School, community, and regional doings. Telecommunications, medicine, law. Photos appreciated.

Writer's guidelines available on request.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

After visiting them in the Westway, Mayor Giuliani said, "At least some of the people here have been through a very terrible ordeal that should not happen to anyone. The allegations° are that these people were brought here under false pretense. They were told they would be able to make a living and to live decently here. One man told me that one of the bosses slapped his children. I spoke to one child who had some scars around his eyes from a beating." More horrifying stories were to come.

Establishing clear communication was the prime obstacle, and it was an extraordinarily tough one. Daniel Molerio, an assistant district director of the INS in New York, called the process "excruciatingly° difficult." "Police were stymied° by the language barrier," said the **Daily News**. "The victims, facing deportation, were unwilling to help at first."

What made matters especially complicated was the variety of modes used by the Mexicans. Some of them used a form of Mexican Sign Language, some ASL, some home signs, and some used a blend. Still others used a distinct "pidgin sign language that baffled the specialized interpreters," as Deborah Sontag noted. Although some of the Mexicans used universal sign language, "cultural nuances"° not understood by the interpreters caused breakdowns." As James Rutenberg of the **Daily News** noted, "[P]olice said things would have been complicated even without the nuances, as some victims are illiterate. 'This is one of the most frustrating cases,' said a police official, who added that cops are having a hard time determining 'who are the good guys and who are the bad.'" All had been taken into custody together, and the "perps"° needed to be sorted out from the victims. That took time.

One question prosecutors and advocates were trying to answer was: how could the ringleaders have kept them enslaved for so long? D.A. Richard Brown theorized that many of the deaf immi-

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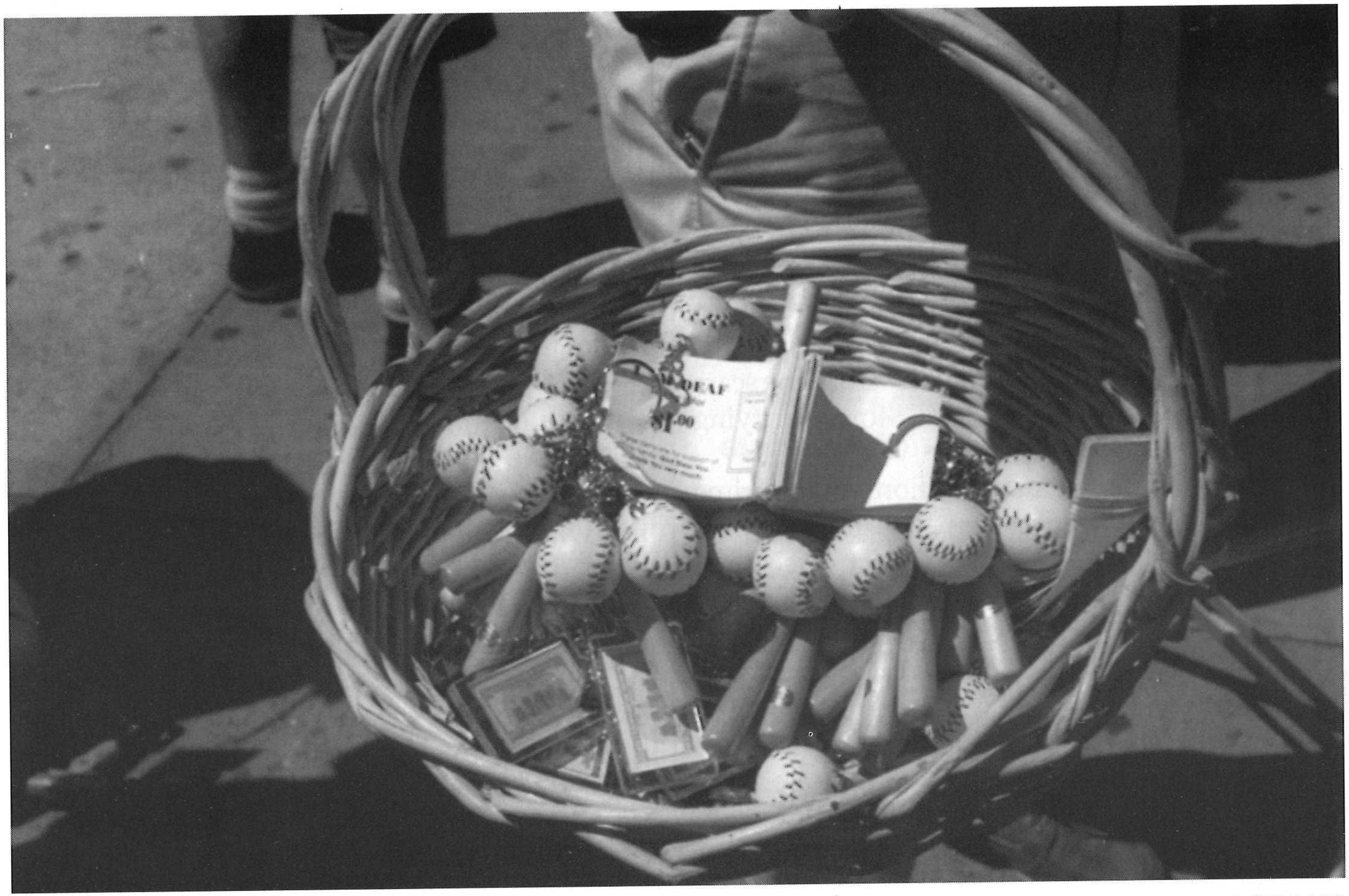


Examples of the trinkets that the Deaf Mexicans were forced to peddle all day: miniature baseball-and-bat and $500-bill keychains. Also visible are the cards that they attached to each keychain. These read, "I AM DEAF/SELLING FOR $1.00 . . . for the support of my family . . . God Bless You. Thank You Very Much." (Photo: Mark Bonifacio)

grants were outcasts from their families in Mexico. Evidence revealed later, though, indicated the effectiveness of physical coercion°—brutality and terror—in keeping the victims under control.

Jorge Pinto, the Consul General for Mexico in New York City, said that his embassy had offered to contact the victims' families—but none had yet taken him up on the offer. They were still afraid.

Pinto praised the immigrants for coming forward, saying, "Most people who are exploited do not tell the authorities what's going on for fear of deportation. These people are either very courageous or they reached a point where they could not take it anymore."

Interrogation continued daily. The Mexicans gradually opened up, expressing pain, betrayal, and fury at their abusers. Bit by bit, the stories emerged, and the police, INS, and media gained a clearer picture of the operation and the complex ties binding the Deaf perpetrators and their Deaf victims.

Mexican officials offered them repatriation.° By that time, INS authorities had determined that almost all of the adults were illegal immigrants. Mayor Giuliani continued negotiations with INS. The Mexicans were to remain under house arrest. They were in what Sontag called "a curious limbo" between bondage and freedom. For the time being, they were well fed and comfortable, but had no money, no income, no immediate prospects, and their futures remained uncertain.

The investigators' trail led to Frank Coenen, 35, a deaf postal worker living in Long Island (and incidentally, the son of a retired New York City police detective). He was traced through the license plate on the white Plymouth van outside one of the peddling-ring apartments. Charlie LeDuff reported, "Neighbors repeatedly identified the van as one used to ferry the Mexicans and their wares." Coenen said he could explain it all:

the real leader of the peddling ring was his ex-wife, Adriana Paoletti Lemus. When LeDuff's report was published, it was still unclear what her relationship was to the man known as Alfredo Paoletti and Alfredo Rustrián, who was being questioned by police.

WHAT THE NEIGHBORS SAW

> "'I had noticed them because I saw an explosion of deaf-mute Mexicans working the No. 7 line," said Mitchell A. Chiddick, a neighbor. "They were selling pens and key chains, what have you."
>
> —Deborah Sontag, "Deaf Mexicans Are Found Held in Forced Labor," **New York Times**, July 20

Particularly disturbing were the revelations that several of the neighbors on 93rd Street had known that something bad was going on in the two houses. They knew that large numbers of immigrants lived there. They heard babies crying, unheard and uncomforted, for hours; doors slamming and fists pounding the walls; they saw and heard women screaming and sobbing loudly on the front steps. They saw and heard, men getting drunk. They saw women being pursued by men, chased through the side alley, even assaulted. None of them called the police. It was, they said, none of their business. Those who considered notifying the police decided against it because they feared the police would deport the immigrants or take the children away.

Mirta Ojito's reports, "Neighbors Heard Pain of 'Mute Ones'" and "Neighbors' Response To Trouble Is Silence," appeared in the July 20 and 21 **Times**. These gave insight into the violent, isolated, terrorized lives led by the Paolettis' "workers" by night.

Esther Sotamba, the landlady of 37-54 93rd Street, had "inherited" the immigrants on the first floor as tenants when she bought the house three months ago. She didn't know who was renting it; she always dealt with a man named Alfredo. He always paid the $1,600-a-month rent punctually, on the 22nd of each month, "mostly in cash with $1 bills." He never told her his last name or gave her a telephone number.

She told him she was concerned that there were too many people living in the 4-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment. When she bought the building, she was told that there were 10 tenants. But when she visited the apartment every weekend, she saw evidence that many more than 10 persons lived there—lots of shoes, industrial-size cooking pots. Alfredo assured her that "not all the people in the house lived there;" some lived nearby and used the house "because it was closer to their jobs." On July 1, he agreed to move the tenants, but asked for time to find a new place.

Every so often, the neighbors on 34th Avenue told the **Daily News**, a beige van with California license plates would pull up with a new batch of recruits and take away some of the workers who'd been there a while. (They were probably sent off to the Chicago trinket-peddling ring.) They also reported seeing boxes of U.S. Government surplus food delivered there. One neighbor said, "They didn't bother anyone."

But at the 93rd Street house, things were more noisy—and violent.

Neighbors who were bothered by the screams of the women or continuous crying of the babies found it difficult to deal with. Cristina Cabrera, a Mexican immigrant who lived upstairs and got to know some of the "muditos" a little, told Ojito that "she found it difficult to deal with her neighbors because she could not communicate with them. She went downstairs many times . . . pounded on the door, and managed to . . . let them know . . . that a baby was crying and needed to be held." She said, "They couldn't hear them, and the babies cried

■

Some of the Mexicans used a form of Mexican Sign Language, or ASL, or home signs, or a blend. Others used a pidgin sign that baffled even specialist interpreters.

■

for hours, until they couldn't cry any more. . . . I threatened them with the police, but I don't think they understood me. If they couldn't hear their own children crying, how were they going to hear me?" She and other neighbors also heard—and saw—women being beaten and abused:

> Mrs. Cabrera said she once saw a young woman running from one house as if she wanted to get away from two men who were chasing her. The woman pushed the men away, and they finally let her alone. She then sat on the steps in the back of the house whimpering like a puppy.
>
> The next day when Mrs. Cabrera asked Alfredo what had happened, he told her that the woman had had a very bad toothache.
>
> —Mirta Ojito, "Neighbors Heard Pain of 'Mute Ones,'" **New York Times**, July 20, 1997

> Even obvious abuse went unreported. From a window of her basement apartment, Luzmari Bohorquez, a waitress who comes home at 3 A.M., many times saw the tangled feet of a couple struggling against the side of her building. He, pushing her toward the near wall; she, resisting and grunting, she said. Ms. Bohorquez never called the authorities because she felt, she explained, it was not her place to interfere.
>
> — "Neighbors' Response to Trouble Is Silence," **New York Times**, July 21, 1997

Ojito pondered just why the neighbors, most of them from Colombia and Ecuador, chose not to get involved. Their unwillingness was rooted in "a profound mistrust of authorities." Some of them were illegal immigrants themselves, and feared for deportation should they come forward.

Victory over what? Renato Paoletti Lemus, left, and his father José Paoletti Moreda flash victory signs behind the bars of a courtroom on August 22, during their arraignment in Mexico City. They were arrested on August 7 and charged with immigrant trafficking and criminal association. Their indictments came one day after a New York court charged 20 others—almost all of them deaf Mexican citizens—with enslavement and trafficking of deaf illegal Mexican immigrants. (Photo: Luis Magana/AP)

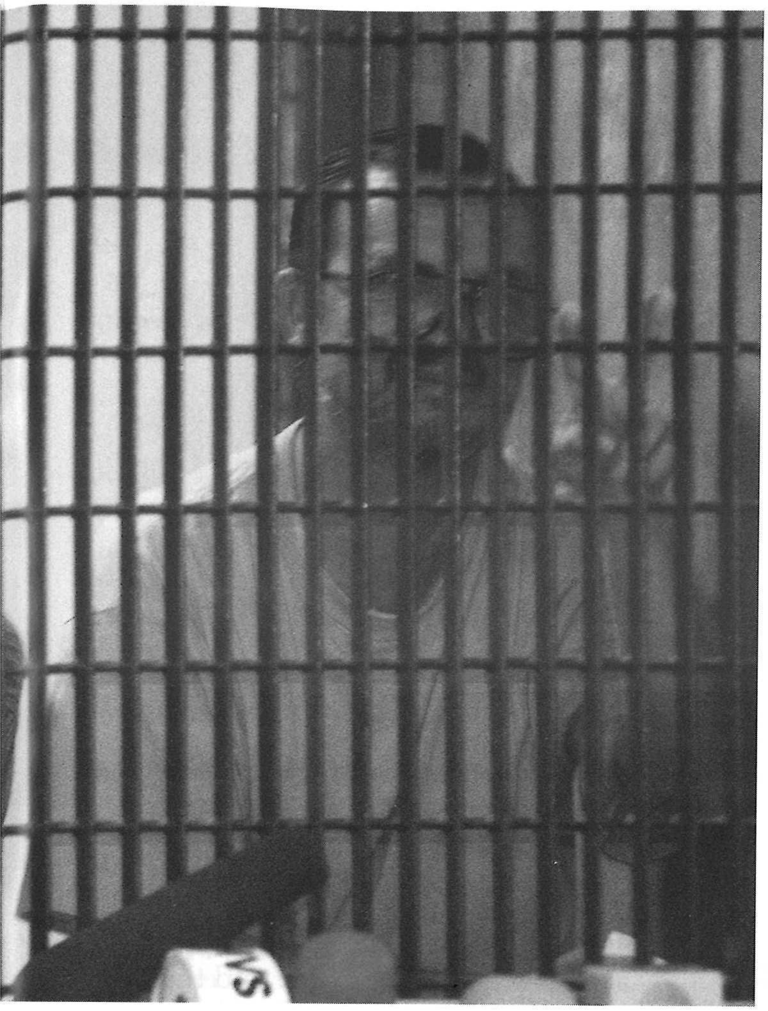
WHAT THE INSPECTORS DIDN'T SEE

Even so, police had been to the house at 93rd Street twice before, in response to a neighbor's complaint in May—not about abused women or crying babies, but that too many people were living there and producing a lot of garbage. Police came one morning, but left without taking action, probably because there were few people at home and it looked more or less "normal." Most of the "tenants" were out "working" at the time.

Thousands of one-family apartments, especially in Queens, have been carved up into cubicles for low-income tenants. This subdividing is illegal, but even though officials are worried about safety and fire hazards, they have been reluctant to crack down for fear of creating more homelessness.

In response to complaints about overcrowding, a city-housing inspector also visited the 93rd Street apartment in February, but reported no violations of the housing code. That revelation provoked a squabble between Mayor Giuliani and the city-housing authorities. Said the Mayor at a July 21 news conference, "From my own investigation on the scene, I would say that it's almost impossible to come to that conclusion."

Likewise, the Fire Department inspected the apartment on March 11, and found nothing illegal. All the tenants there (the report didn't say how many there were) claimed to be members of "the Duran family." It's not illegal, as far as fire-



safety codes are concerned, for large numbers of relatives to live in one apartment. The Fire Department report merely cited the owner for leaving debris on the stairs and a refrigerator in the garage, and not having smoke detectors. (City administrators and other New Yorkers shuddered at the thought of what might have happened had fire broken out in one of the apartments at night. Dozens of deaf people might have died.)

At 5:30 a.m. on July 11, "after a particularly violent domestic fight," the police and Emergency Medical Services came in to help a woman who needed medical attention, but left when she refused to go to the hospital.

School and child-welfare officials said they had received no complaints about the children in the two apartments.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN MEXICO. . .

The story dominated Spanish-language media newspapers and television news programs in New York, and the coverage in Mexico was even more intense. Many news accounts there criticized the United States for in effect tolerating such servitude. "Mexicans Enslaved," read the lead headline of one paper.

—Joe Sexton, "Prosecutors Offer a Chilling Story of Exploitation," **New York Times**, July 22, 1997

It is one of the first things they learn: the right hand, palm up, resting on the left hand, palm down. In Mexican Sign Language this is the United States, and to deaf Mexicans the United States is a glint of hope in a dark and silent world.

Even a glimpse of life here gives some idea why. For most deaf Mexicans, there are no [TTY] services, like those common in the United States. No doorbells have lights attached, no smoke alarms emit flashes, and no television programs have closed captions.

If they can find work, the deaf do the most menial of jobs, cleaning floors or sanding wood. The legal minimum wage is about $3 a day, but the deaf often find their employers paying them less than other workers. For many, begging in the subway or selling cards printed with the sign-language alphabet is the way to survive here.

In the eyes of Mexican law, the deaf are considered incompetent. They cannot hold a driver's license, nor can they buy a house unless a hearing person co-signs the contract. There are only six government schools for the deaf in Mexico, all ending at the sixth grade, and six private schools, only one going through middle school. And because there is no standard sign language, words are signed differently in Mexico's north and south.

Jorge Badillo Huerta, director of the National School for the Deaf in Mexico City, said that conditions in Mexico are so grim that 80 percent of deaf adults go to the United States.

Some, in desperation, chase empty promises. (...)

—Anthony DePalma, "In Mexico, Deaf Find The Future Lies North/Jobs Are Menial and the Services Lacking," **New York Times**, July 26, 1997

Shortly after the rescue in Queens, reporters flew to Mexico to interview the parents, families, friends, and old teachers of the "muditos." A grim picture emerged of a whole class of young people given no more than a primary-school-level education, and who have grown up with crushingly low expectations. Even if they had good educations, they said, they had few prospects for employment, no hope, and no future. In Mexican society, they were invisible. The outlook is bleak. Many young deaf people ended up peddling manual-alphabet or "I AM DEAF" cards, chewing gum, and trinkets while dodging the traffic of Mexico City, earning a peso (about a dime) at a time. With luck (e.g., if they weren't robbed and beaten by gangsters), they could earn $10 to $12 a day.

Trapped in poverty, they were eager to listen to tales of how wonderful life in the United States could be. That made them vulnerable to exploitation. The Paolettis made routine stops at the schools for the deaf to recruit new blood. They showed their victims photographs of their own relatively luxurious possession, made promises, told them lies about the work they would do and the good income and prosperity they would enjoy, deceived them, and sometimes simply snatched them.

On Sunday, July 20, the Reverend Martin Montoya, a Roman Catholic priest who ministers to Deaf people at St. Hippolito Church in Mexico City, summoned his congregants to an emergency meeting after morning Mass. With the assistance of a sign-language interpreter, he broke the "stunning" news about the enslavement and rescue of "los muditos." Showing them the newspaper headlines, he told them, "Be careful with those offering a better life elsewhere, and don't be mislead by deceitful promises. The recruiting agents will say you'll live better, and they may paint a paradise north of the border. But it can go badly there. Stay in Mexico and get an education. We can all live better here."

In his **Times** report, Sam Dillon wrote, "The news aroused considerable alarm, confirming widespread rumors of ill treatment suffered by the thousands of deaf Mexicans who travel to the United States each year to sell trinkets on streets from Los Angeles to Queens." Many feared that their relatives or friends were among the victims.

St. Hippolito Church houses the Instituto Rosendo Olletta, a school for the deaf. Students there were likewise alarmed by the news. According to the **Daily News**, several students enrolled there had "vanished without a trace" over the years, and now Rev. Montoya and others knew what had happened to at least some of them. He told the **Daily News** he knew of immigrant-smuggling going on in Mexico City, Monterrey, and Torreon. A woman dubbed "La Gringa" came every year and left with a band of new recruits.

Proudly We Hail
Suppo merica
MADE IN USA
LIMIT OF LIABILITY
045102

This cheap little flag pin (one of the trinkets peddled by the Mexicans) is mounted on a bit of patriotic yellow ribbon. Ironically enough, the card reads "Proudly We Hail," "Support America," and "MADE IN USA." (Photo: Joe DeMaria)

■

The police needed to sort out the bad guys from the victims, since everyone had been rounded up and taken into custody together.

■

Jorge Badillo Huerta, director of the National School for the Deaf, a private school in Mexico City, told Dillon that "he had good reason to believe that some of his former students might be among those involved in the New York case, because 67 of his ex-students were recruited in 1994 to work as street vendors in the United States."

Badillo believed that Adriana Paoletti-Lemus had attended classes at his school, and recalled her well. She was an outstanding student, an elegant dresser who socialized with the jet-setters of Mexico City—partying and visiting discotheques at night. (Was she or her mother La Gringa?)

He also said he had visited several

former students and acquaintances in the States now working as independent street vendors. Some do quite well, especially by Mexican standards, earning as much as $100 a day. Others are exploited by bosses, and some even end up prostituted.

Many of the deaf Mexicans Dillon met complained that there were no opportunities in Mexico for deaf people. Nothing. Carolina Ortega, a 53-year-old deaf woman, earned $57 a week in an auto factory until she was laid off 3 years ago, and had not been able to find work since. She has dozens of deaf friends, and none of them have found full employment either. She told Dillon, "No matter how much we educate ourselves, we have no chance here."

VICTIMIZERS OR VICTIMS?

A complaint filed today in U.S. District Court by Federal prosecutors gave a grimly detailed description of an efficient, well-organized criminal enterprise run by the Paoletti family in which each member had an assigned role—recruiting workers, bringing them here, running the houses where they lived, collecting money, punishing those who did not bring in enough cash, and tracking down workers who tried to leave.

—from **New York Times** and AP reports

■

None of the neighbors called the police. It was, they said, none of their business. Those who considered notifying the police decided against it because they feared the police would deport the immigrants or take the children away.

■

On Sunday, the first arrests were made. Seven Mexicans—members of the Paoletti family and their associates—were arrested, three on local criminal charges of alien-smuggling, grand larceny,° and extortion.° Four of them—Alfredo Rustrián Paoletti, José Paoletti Lemus, Rosa Beltrán Sánchez, and Santa González—were held on Federal charges of smuggling, harboring, and transporting illegal immigrants. According to the **Daily News**, "If convicted, they could be sentenced to 5 to 15 years in prison."

A roster of the accused:

- José Paoletti Moreda, 59, the family patriarch and probable ringleader, who was still at large and thought to be in Mexico. It took police 18 days to capture him.
- Delia ("Adelja") Lemus Ruiz de Paoletti, 59, José's wife. Accused of collecting money from immigrants and recruiting victims in Mexico. Charged with first-degree coercion and second-degree harassment.
- Alfredo Rustrián Paoletti, 37. Son of José's sister Socorro Paoletti Moreda (who was not implicated in this case). One of the few hearing members of the family, he is accused of helping supervise workers and hunting down those who tried to escape. He evidently took his orders from his cousin "Pipo."
- Adriana Paoletti Lemus, 29. Daughter of José and Adelja. Described as boss of the house at 93rd Street. Charged with first-degree coercion and second-degree larceny. Thought to be the "mastermind" of the scheme, she is accused to torturing "workers" who weren't bringing in enough money, and recruiting more victims.
- José ("Pipo") Paoletti Lemus, 28. Son of José and Adelja. Described as boss of the house at 34th Avenue.
- Rosa María Beltrán Sánchez, 37. Pipo's wife. Accused of helping run the house at 34th Avenue, and recruiting victims in Mexico.
- Renato Paoletti Lemus, around 20. Son of José and Adelja. Described as chief smuggler for the operation. Like Alfredo, he is hearing. He was captured with his father in Mexico City on August 7.
- Santa González Refugio, Renato's girlfriend. Accused of helping run the 93rd Street house. But evidence suggests that she didn't play an important role in the scheme.
- Raúl Alanis, not related to the family. Accused of following workers to make sure they continuously sold trinkets. Charged with first-degree coercion and second-degree assault.

On Sunday night, Adriana Paoletti, Adelja Paoletti, and Raúl Alanis were arraigned in criminal court in Queens. Judge Jeffrey Lebowitz set bail at $50,000 apiece over the objections of prosecutors, who said that the three were bad "flight risks." Their lawyers claimed that they were innocent of the charges.

Adriana Paoletti's lawyer, Martin Goldman, insisted that his client was guilty of nothing more than a "business venture to sell keychains. There was no coercion and certainly no bondage."

José Paoletti Lemus' lawyer, Bruce McIntyre, said, "There may have been victims, but my client was not one of the people taking advantage of them. He was more a victim than a victimizer." Alanis' lawyer, Joshua Glick, similarly described his client as a victim who lived in fear of his captors.

Likewise, Santa González's lawyer, Samuel Gregory, said that his client was "deaf, mute, and penniless," that she collected money but didn't keep it for herself, and had only recently been allowed to stop peddling.

That same night, Rustrián Paoletti, José Paoletti Lemus, Rosa Beltrán Sánchez, and Santa González were arraigned in Brooklyn Federal Court. They held without bail and ordered to return on August 4 for a hearing.

INS officials said that they believed there were similar immigrant-bondage rings across the country, and predicted that they would be making several arrests soon. At a July 21 news conference, INS chief Doris Meissner said that immigration offices around the country had been put on the alert.

MONDAY, JULY 21

As interrogations and investigations proceeded, more details about the victims and perpetrators of the trinket-peddling ring emerged.

■

Brendan Coenen said that "the group's network extended well beyond the 57" who had been rescued, that "dozens of other peddlers were also working for the group from other bases in Queens and the Bronx."

■

THE PAOLETTIS' KEYCHAIN EMPIRE

The Paolettis were originally a family of Italian descent living in the lower-middle-class Tacubaya section of Mexico City. José Paoletti Moreda was early-deafened. His wife Delia was born deaf, as were her three children, José, Renato, and Adriana. Paoletti Moreda's sister Socorro married a general practitioner, Dr. Rustrián, and sent her son Alfredo and two other children to private school. Those who knew the Paolettis described them as party-loving go-getters, ambitious social climbers, eager for status. They could be charming.

Paoletti Moreda worked as a commercial artist for Mexico's Communications Ministry, "sketching roads and airports," and making a comfortable living. According to Sam Dillon's report, "His three children attended special-education public schools, but also received private instruction in communication and computer programming."

After Paoletti Moreda retired, he moved the family to "a gritty industrial suburb" and they began traveling extensively through the United States. He built his trinket-peddling empire with "a work force of vendors recruited from Mexico's deaf population," as the **Times'** Sam Dillon put it. Deaf people had been peddling trinkets in Mexico City for decades. In the 1980s, the Paolettis transferred their small trinket-peddling business to the United States. Keychains that sold for mere pesos in Mexico City would bring in fatter profits in Los Angeles. (They purchased keychains and other trinkets in bulk from wholesalers on Los Angeles Street. An item that cost a dime could be sold for a dollar.) They grew wealthy by Mexican standards. They accumulated real estate (houses in New York and Los Angeles) and a fleet of vans and cars, which were used to transport their recruits across the border.

Adriana was an outstanding student

The Mexicans leave the 115th Precinct for the Westway Motel in police vans. One man makes an "ILY" sign while shielding his face. (Photo: Rick Dembow)

in high school, and some of the early recruits to her father's trinket-peddling venture were her old classmates. They originally based the business in Los Angeles and took peddlers to Las Vegas and Miami, "and other tourist centers."

The venture, however, did not get off to a good start. The first recruits told new recruits "the job barely paid." In 1990, a group of four young peddlers fled back across the Mexican border through Tijuana.

The Paolettis' "bondage ring" began in 1990 when they started recruiting poor young deaf Mexicans to work in New York. As Sam Dillon noted: "The decision to establish a New York base appears to have resulted from Adriana's marriage [in 1990] to a deaf postal worker from Long Island, Frank Coenen." Recognizing a lucrative° market, the family moved its base there and expanded their operations. They considered New York a "safer" location, far distant from the Deaf community of Los Angeles. Recruits working in Queens would not find it so easy to flee back to Mexico.

Immigrants were smuggled from Tijuana to Los Angeles, then taken to New York. After California tightened the security on its border, the Paolettis found alternate routes through Texas. There was always a way.

The recruits left behind anxious and grieving families. In many cases, families of the peddlers recruited by the Paolettis received no communications from them, sometimes for years. Enforcers sometimes telephoned their parents, sisters, or brothers, giving them "falsely reassuring" messages that their children, brothers, or sisters were thriving in New York. The captives were also forced to sign their names to glossy picture postcards of New York provided by the Paolettis and sent to their families in Mexico to "reassure" them that all was well. The "creepy" messages, written by the Paolettis, lamely expressed wishes for good health. When the peddlers' families received them, they became more worried than ever.

A few contacted authorities, or tried to get through to their children. One mother, Juana Ofelia García de Santiago, whose son Ismael Santiago García had left home early one morning in May 1996 to join the trinket ring, received a standard "reassurance" call and demanded to know why Ismael couldn't write to her himself if he was all right. She suspected that he was among the recently-freed victims in Queens.

Another mother, Pilar Rodriguez Muniz, filed kidnapping charges with Mexico's Foreign Ministry against one of Paoletti Moreda's employees after her 20-year-old daughter Guadalupe Muniz disappeared. (She was last seen supposedly being taken to a party thrown by the Paolettis.) The Mexican Consulate in New York had not received any report of a kidnapping. But Guadalupe came to the consulate to say that she was willingly staying with her friend, Adriana Paoletti Lemus. Adriana also accompanied several other deaf victims to the consulate between 1995 and 1997 and interpreted for them, sending reassuring messages to their families that they were safe and doing fine. None said anything about mistreatment—not with Adriana there.

Over the years, there were several defections, a few rescues, and a few dismissals. But, as Sontag noted, several "vendors felt bound to the Paolettis by a complicated psychological contract that prosecutors are working to understand."

To be continued in next month's issue

atrocious: horrible; exceptionally bad; abominable.
antipathy: dislike; aversion; hostility.
trinkets: small ornaments or items, not of much value; trifles.
squalid: messy and dirty.
deportation: being expelled from the U.S. as an undesirable alien.
allegations: accusations.
excruciatingly: agonizingly painful and slow.
stymied: baffled; perplexed; frustrated.
nuances: delicate, subtle shades of meaning.
perps: (slang) short for *perpetrators*—the bad guys, wrongdoers, or criminals.
coercion: to compel victims to do something against their will by threats or brutality.
repatriation: return to their native country.
larceny: robbery.
extortion: using one's power or threats to squeeze money or cooperation from someone.
lucrative: profitable; bringing in lots of money.

ARTICLES CONSULTED

(listed in chronological order)

Deborah Sontag, "Deaf Mexicans are found held in forced labor," **New York Times**, July 20, 1997. (Front-page story.)

"NYC police rescue 52 deaf Mexicans," **The Boston Globe**, July 20, 1997. (Reprinted from **The Washington Post**.)

Charlie LeDuff, "Man Relates Tangled Tale Implicating Deaf Ex-Wife," **New York Times**, July 20, 1997.

Bob Liff and James Rutenberg, "Hunt head of 'bondage' ring/Rudy blocks INS in custody grab," New York **Daily News**, July 21, 1997. (Front-page headline reads "HUNT FOR RING BOSS/Officials say Mexican slave-wage gang in Queens took its orders from a 'Mr. Big.'")

Deborah Sontag, "7 arrested in abuse of deaf immigrants/Mexicans lived in servitude and terror," **New York Times**, July 21, 1997. (Front-page headline story.)

Sam Dillon, "In Mexico, tales of deception confirm the fears of the deaf," **New York Times**, July 21, 1997. (Front-page sub-headline story.)

Mirta Ojito, "Neighbors' response to trouble is silence," **New York Times**, July 21, 1997. (Tie-in to front-page story.)

"An array of state and federal charges," **New York Times**, July 21, 1997.

Corky Siemaszko, (writer), Carolina Gonzalez, Alice McQuillan, James Rutenberg, Paul H.B. Shin, Tim Stone, and Laura Williams (reporters), "Hunt Head of 'Bondage' Ring/Deaf Mexican lured with lies," New York **Daily News**, July 21, 1997. (Front-page story.)

James Rutenberg, "Language tangle slows investigation," New York **Daily News**, July 21, 1997.

Corky Siemaszko, "Tales of missing students, 'La Gringa,'" New York **Daily News**, July 21, 1997.

Joe Sexton, "Prosecutors offer a chilling story of exploitation/Deaf Mexicans seen as unwitting victims of efficient band," **New York Times**, July 22, 1997. (Front-page headline reads: "Captive in Queens: retracing a grim trail.")

Ian Fisher, "Agencies had inspected captives' apartment," **New York Times**, July 22, 1997.

Deaf Life Thanks to Bill Martin of the New York **Daily News** and Lisa Nelson of Associated Press/ Wide World for their assistance with the photographs. And special thanks to Raymond Luczak for keeping us informed of developments.

Beyond the Envelope

(ONE COLUMNIST'S OPINION)

Reflections & Musings

1997 has been an eventful year for me. Several people died in 1997, and their deaths affected me in varying degrees. First and foremost was the death of Princess Diana. I still can't get over the death of someone so young, beautiful, and filled with purpose. In my mind, Diana will always be forever young.

Second was the death of my neighbor. I only knew him by his first name and I never really talked with him very much. But we were aware of each other because we both were owners of Dalmatians. As readers may remember, I adopted a deaf Dalmatian named Penny. She will be 4 years old this May and is doing great. She is beautiful to look at, and is very incredibly affectionate—she expects to be hugged and kissed daily, and if I don't do what I'm supposed to do, she will kiss me without being prompted to do so. Indeed, hugging and kissing has become our nightly ritual, and when we return home after our daily walks, she will turn around and wait for me to give her a good, full-body massage. She will not go in the house without that. In course of training her, I have ended up being trained. (Forgive me if this has turned your stomach, but other Dalmatian owners tell me that Dalmatians are known for their affectionateness.) Ah, well. In any case, my neighbor, John, had a hearing Dalmatian. Where Penny is young and energetic, his Dalmatian is well into his teens (12 years old now) and enjoys a rather calm, sedentary lifestyle. And where Penny is warm and friendly, this Dalmatian becomes hostile whenever strangers are around. Their yard holds several "BEWARE OF DOG" signs, which I take seriously. Finally, this Dalmatian's owner fits a popular image of Dalmatian owners: John was a firefighter and came from a family of firefighters.

Two days before Halloween, John was called to fight a fire in a building in D.C. in the early morning hours. In the course of trying to put out the fire, John somehow ended up in the basement, and the fire-damaged ceiling came bearing down on him. (The mystery of why John ended up in the basement was a cause of debate for several days, because it was said that firefighters are always trained *not* to go to the basement while fighting a fire, because of the danger of collapsing ceilings and floors from above.) When the firefighters came out of building and collected their IDs, it was discovered that John's ID had not yet been collected. So everyone started looking for him and found him dead in the basement. John was only 38 years old, and he left behind a wife, a young son, and a Dalmatian. In telling me about John's untimely death, my husband began the news by saying somberly: "That mean old Dalmatian doesn't have a Daddy anymore."

The next person to die was my former boss at **Science** Magazine. I first met her when I was interviewed by her for the position of editorial assistant at the magazine. At the time of the interview, I was in my sixth month of job-hunting, and I was becoming increasingly desperate because I had an average of at least 6-7 interviews per month, and all of the companies that I had interviewed with found reasons not to hire me. I wanted to use my B.A. degree in English by working for either a magazine or a book-publishing company, and there were plenty of those in the Washington, D.C. area. I believed I had the skills and a reasonable amount of corresponding experience to make a real contribution, but the most oft-cited reason for not hiring me was my inability to use the phone. This, of course, was before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). When I graduated from college, I had checked for jobs in the deaf community, but at the time I graduated, there was an overall freeze on hiring, and if there were any available jobs, competition for those was incredibly stiff. There were some jobs that I didn't bother applying for, simply because they paid too little and I would not have been able to cover my basic financial needs.

So when I was interviewed and hired by **Science**, I was really grateful, because I finally had a REAL job, and I didn't have to pound the pavements in search for a job anymore. It also meant I would avoid the indignity of living on SSI and having to mooch off my parents. I also escaped the fate that befell many college graduates who had studied four or more years on a subject, only to find themselves taking a job in a field that was far removed from their course of study. I remember seeing deaf people talking to each other, and when somebody would say what their degree was in and what their current job was, and if there was a wide difference between the two, people would say the sign for "off the point," and the poor person would be forced to explain the circumstances that led to the job. Sometimes people would be forgiving and understanding, but there were times when people would silently pass judgement *(S/he didn't look hard enough! or If s/he had contacted so-so and checked this place. . .)*.

I worked at **Science** for six years, and Sherryf (yes, it's pronounced like "sheriff") Farmer was my boss for five of those six years, until Dr. Daniel E. Koshland, the Editor-in-Chief, retired from **Science**. During his tenure as Editor-in-Chief, he also had a very productive career at University of California, Berkeley. Essentially, he held two full-time jobs at the same time, and he would go back and forth every couple of weeks or so. His wife, Marian Elliott Koshland (I used to love hearing their names because they sounded so impressive), also had a prolific career as a scientist (I don't remember, but I think her field was in the area of biology) at the same university. At the time of Dan Koshland's retirement, UC Berkeley decided to rename one of their science buildings after him. I've seen photos of Koshland Hall, and it goes very well with their namesake's (and his wife's) wonderfully imposing names. When the new Editor-in-Chief took over after Koshland's retirement, there was a six-month lull when no changes were made. Then all of sudden, things started to change and I got a new boss during my sixth year.

■

I can still see Sherryf in my mind's eye, and I can hear her telling me: *"You go, girl!"* and *"Amen, sister!"* and *"You trippin'!"*

■

Anyway, during the five years I had Sherryf as my boss, I watched her go through a few milestones. She got married a couple of months after I got hired, and had a baby girl the following year. She had high blood pressure, and her pregnancy was a fairly dicey° affair, but she managed to carry her baby up to eight months, and despite giving birth prematurely, she and her baby came through fine. The baby was named Josee, and Sherryf kept asking me if I thought Josee looked like her or Joe (her husband). I knew perfectly well that Sherryf wanted to hear that Josee looked like her mother, but I would always tell Sherryf that Josee looked a lot like her father with those round eyes and chubby cheeks (hey, it was the truth!). I would then offer a morsel of consolation to Sherryf by telling her that Josee had her mother's long fingers (Sherryf had the most beautiful hands of anyone I've ever seen—her fingers were long and graceful).

When I left **Science**, I gave Sherryf a mug with a cartoon on it showing a man mooning° his boss. The caption read: "Upon his retirement, Joe decides to tell his boss what he thinks of him." I told Sherryf that I knew I wasn't retiring, but that the sentiment expressed on the mug was just perfect. She loved it and thought it was hilarious. After that, I did not see her again until the funeral. She died on the Friday before Thanksgiving, and apparently she was at work on that day (she had moved on to another job elsewhere after I left) and told her co-workers that she had a headache. From that headache, she went into a stroke and that was it. I can still see her in my mind's eye, and I can hear her telling me: *"You go, girl!"*; *"Amen, sister!"*; *"You trippin'!"* and other colorful phrases. Sherryf was only 37 when she died, and I miss her very much. I also miss John the fireman and Princess Diana.

dicey: (slang) uncertain; risky; chancy.

mooning: (slang) short for "shining the moon (at)," a vulgar insult in which the insulter (usually a man) pulls down his pants, bends over, and "shines" his naked butt at the person or persons he wants to insult. In Bertolucci's controversial film ***Last Tango in Paris***, there's a scene in which Marlon Brandö drunkenly moons the participants in a tango competition. Not to be confused with the expressions "mooning over" or "moony about" someone, which mean having dreamy, romantic yearnings.

Deaf Life Michele Listisard, an alumna of MSSD and SUNY-Albany, now works as a Youth Programs Coordinator for the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). She is also the current scheduling agent for Miss Deaf America. When not working for the NAD, she can be found at those monthly meetings as a member of Gallaudet University's Institutional Review Board. Her husband, two dogs (one deaf Dalmatian and one hearing Husky mix), books, magazines, and Monty Python all are a big part of Michele's life and provide her with plenty of comic relief.

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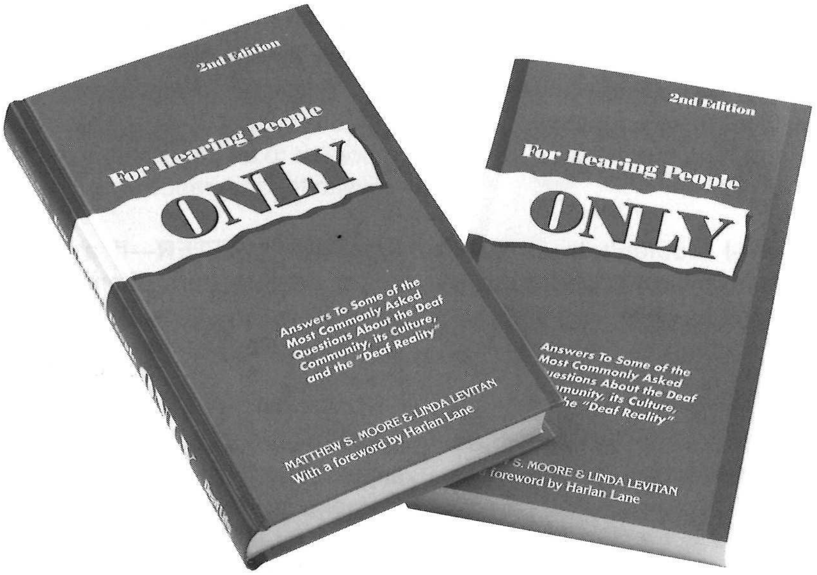
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Would you buy insurance from a Deaf or hearing salesperson?

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DEAF—All things being equal, and the deaf guy is on the level, doesn't charge a ball-player's salary, heck, why not help my brethren out—but again, not. Not cause he(she) happens to be deaf, but 'cause I'd be getting comparable service at comparable rates. Money-service would be the bottom line.

DOESN'T MATTER—Just depends on whether I feel that I could trust this person or not, or whether I know this person or not.

DOESN'T MATTER—It does not matter as long as the saleperson understand our needs to be fulfilling. Certainly, it would benefit for Deaf community for salesperson who know sign language in order to communicate effectively.

DOESN'T MATTER—I am hearing, but both of my grandparents are deaf. They practically raised me. Why should it matter if they are deaf or hearing? As long as the knowledge and know-how is there.

DOESN'T MATTER—I'm tired of people thinking that deaf people are dumb. Deaf people cannot hear but they can learn and be smart. People belittle and stupify deaf people because of their difference. People like this are just insecure about themselves. I know deaf people that would do a better job at selling insurance than most people who can hear. People treat deaf people as inferior because they do not know any better. If people were more educated on this topic, there would not be so much discrimination.

HEARING—I wouldn't trust Deaf people with my money or life. They are very destructive people...They will tell other people about my life and how much I spend on insurance. Deaf people in general have no respect for one's right to privacy. I will never do business with Deaf people, ever!

DEAF—I believe I would feel more comfortable buying insurance policies from Deaf agent simply because of good communication and trust. I can ask questions conveniently and also I can read his/her face whether if the agent is telling truth or showing enough knowledge. Hope I am good at that. I would like to help Deaf business people to become successful. Hearing agents have too many opportunities offered anywhere.

DOESN'T MATTER—As long as the agent knew what they were talking about, and the policy was right for me, it wouldn't make any difference if he was deaf, hearing, disabled, alien, or what have you. I would be more interested in product, attitude, and of course customer service. The saleperson would have to be knowledge as to the insurance they are selling. It would also be important to be comfortable dealing with the insurance agent.

DOESN'T MATTER—If a deaf and a hearing were offering the same insurance, I would buy from the deaf salesperson to support the community in which I live.

DEAF—Deaf, Deaf, Deaf! I must support Deaf people...They need to make a living...Where is our support for all Deaf-owned business or Deaf salespersons? We must work together, not destroying ourselves.

DOESN'T MATTER—I have same insurance since I was 16 years old. I think it is important to compare the insurances' providing and fee. The salesperson is responsible to convince the consumers to use his/her insurance company.

Readers have asked us how many "DeafView" responses we get every month.
This month's total: 732

DeafView

READERS' VIEWPOINT

DEAF LIFE would like to know what you think about major issues affecting the Deaf community. Fax your response to (716) 442-6371, E-mail us at deaflife@deaflife.com, **or** send it to us at Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

Should the illegal deaf Mexican immigrants be given U.S. citizenship?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

Comments: ____

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Deadline: February 20,1998

Visit us at: **http://www.deafview.com**

FAX: (716) 442-6371

Please respond promptly so that we can publish the results in the March issue.